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HISTORY OF LEE

AND

ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

BY

F. H. HART.



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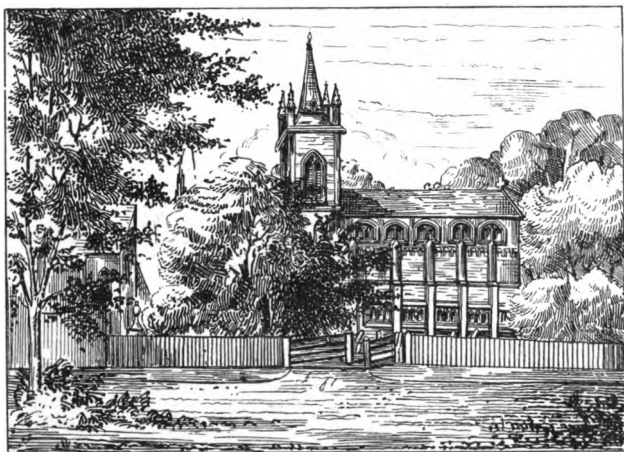
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HISTORY OF LEE AND ITS
NEIGHBOURHOOD.



LEE PARISH CHURCH, A.D. 1080 to 1813.



LEE PARISH CHURCH, A.D. 1813 to 1841.



HISTORY OF LEE

AND

ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD,

BY

F. H. HART,

*Member of the Lee Parochial Committees, Guardian of the Poor, &c., and formerly
Overseer for the Parish of Lee, and Surveyor of Highways.*



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PREFACE.

HAVING now completed my long-promised History of the ancient Parish of Lee, I respectfully present the same to my Fellow-Parishioners and other Readers. It owes its publication to an appeal from many old Parishioners to the Writer, and as I have been a resident in the parish for upwards of seventy years, and a Parochial Officer and elected Member of the various Parochial Committees for more than forty years, and being familiar, also, with the local traditions and records of the Parish, and having in my possession many ancient plans and drawings of the old Church, Rectory, and Mansions, I am enabled to do something in writing this short history, and leaving a memento of my local knowledge to the Parishioners.

Several years have rolled away since the first application was made to me for its production. It is now due to the leisure the Writer enjoys, after having toiled hard in various ways, with close application, for the benefit of the Parish at large. For the part of the History previous to the present century, I have employed HASTED'S and EDWARDS'S Topographies and Surveys, and no one can be more convinced of the truth of these materials, and their ability to do justice to the subject, than I am. Every parish has its history in its Church Registers and Parish Records and local Traditions, which may prove of value to all succeeding generations of Parishioners; and I venture to hope that this History may be of some value too, so far as it forms an integral part, however small, in a parish with its landmarks.

Some of the matters I have touched upon, are the great local changes during the past half-century ; the ancient tenure of the Manor and its surroundings, with the gentlemen's country seats ; also the ancient monuments in the Old Churchyard and on the Tower, one erected in 1604 to BRYAN AINSLEY and AWDRY his wife, and his three daughters ; also one to NICHOLAS AINSLEY, "sergant of the seller" (chief butler) to Queen ELIZABETH ; and other memorials of the departed, worthy of notice.

To illustrate the good and stately old mansions, I may mention the Manor House (H. WOLFFRAM, ESQ.), the adjoining one (J. H. YOUNG, ESQ., J.P.), Pentland House (R. WHYTE, ESQ.), and The Firs (J. W. LARKING, ESQ., J.P.), all in the Old Road ; also Dacre House, Brandram Road ; and The Cedars (MRS. PENN), Belmont Hill.

"The stately homes of England,
How beautiful they stand !
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
O'er all the pleasant land."

I earnestly hope that I have not failed in doing my best to place before my fellow-parishioners, and others, a History that they will be pleased to peruse for information of the past ; although I know I have executed my task in a manner not above criticism.

F. H. HART.

*Brandram Road, Lee,
July, 1881.*





HISTORY OF LEE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

CHAPTER I.

THE ancient village of Lee—Its Churches—Old Church Tower and Tablets—Old Churchyard and its Monuments, &c.—The Rev. G. Lock—New Rectory—The Boone Family—Mr. Aislabie—Sale of Boone's Estate—Merchant Taylors' Almshouses—Building of Church Street and Dacre Street—Fine Timber of Lee—Its Water—Old Mansions—Mr. Young's house—The Bonor Family—Lee House—Pentland House—Manor House—The Firs—The Manor of Lee.

THE village of Lee, in the county of Kent, was anciently written *Legheart*, and in old Latin, *Laga*, *i.e.*, "a place that lies sheltered." It is described in Domesday Book, under the general title of "Bishop's Lands," as follows :—"In the Greenwich Hundred.—Walter of Douay holds Lee from Odo, Bishop of Baieux, Earl of Kent, the king's half-brother. In the time of The Conqueror, anno 1080, it was rated at half a sowling. The arable is four plough lands; there are two ploughs in the demesne, and eleven villans. Here are two domestics, with two cottages, and five acres of meadow, and a wood of ten hogs. In the time of Edward, and when it was transferred to the Bishop, it was valued at three pounds; its present estimate is one hundred shillings. Alwin held it of the Saxon king."

The parish contains about 1,273 acres of land, the village being on the high road to Maidstone, from whence rises a hill to the north, on which the ancient church of St. Margaret's formerly stood, with a valley again between that and Blackheath. Lee is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Rochester and Deanery of Greenwich, but was formerly in Dartford deanery.

The first church, which was of great antiquity, was taken down in the year 1813, and a new one of much larger dimensions erected under the direction of a committee of gentlemen. This building cost £4,200; part of which was raised by subscriptions, and the remainder borrowed at interest. The foundation-stone was laid by Thomas Brandram and Christopher Godmond, Esqrs., the churchwardens, on the 15th of September, 1813. The body of the church and chancel was 56 feet in length, built of brick; the old tower was left standing at the west end, and there were added to the top of it a neat acute spire, cased with copper, and pinnacles at the corners, which rendered it a pleasant object from Blackheath and the surrounding neighbourhood.

The patronage of this church was anciently esteemed as an appendage to the manor, and it continued so until King Charles I. granted the fee of the manor to Ralph Freeman, reserving the right of patronage of the church to the Crown, which continues to be at the present time.

This comparatively new church being inadequate to the spiritual

requirements of the parish, was pulled down on the 31st of May, 1841. The present more spacious building was erected, and continues to be used at the present time.

The ancient church was valued in the fifteenth year of Edward I. at 10 marcs; and in the King's Books at £3 11s. 8d.; and the yearly tenths at 7s. 2d. By virtue of the Commission of Inquiry into the Value of Church Livings, from the Court of Chancery, in the year 1650, it was returned, that Lee was "a parsonage with a house and 19 acres of glebe land, all worth £70 per annum." The parsonage house formerly adjoined the churchyard on the west side, and was built by the Rector of the parish, the Rev. Abraham Sherman, in the year 1636.

To the east of the old tower is a monument to this rev. gentleman's memory, who died Oct. 5th, 1654. On the north side of the altar in the old church, there was formerly a monument with the figure of a man in armour, and an inscription to the memory of Bryan Ainsley, Esq., of Lee, and Awdry his wife, only daughter of Robert Tyrrel, of Essex, Esq., by whom he had one son and three daughters: Bryan, who died *s.p.*; Grace, married to Sir John Wildgoose; Christian, to Lord Sondes, lord of the manor of Lee in 1600; and Cordell, to Sir William Harvey. Bryan, their father, died in 1604, being at the time one of the gentlemen pensioners of Queen Elizabeth; Awdry died 1591. On the east side of the old tower is a tablet to their memory, erected by Cordell, their daughter. Also, on the south side of the altar of the old church was a memorial brass, with the figure of a man in armour, kneeling at a desk, and an open book before him; an inscription in black letter, under the figure, shows it to be to the memory of Nicholas Ainsley, "sergant of the seller" to Queen Elizabeth; obiit 1593, ætat 58. It has been re-erected in the present church. Also, an inscription was formerly here for George Hatcliff, the King's Treasurer in Ireland, and one of the Clerks of the King's Household; he died 1514.

The old churchyard contains many elegant monuments, worthy of note. On the east side, near the fence, about 22 yards from the road, is a plain table tomb to the memory of a late celebrated Astronomer Royal, Dr. Edmond Halley, who died in 1742, aged 85; also to his eldest daughter Margaret, died 1743, aged 55, and to his youngest daughter, Mrs. C. Price, died 1765, aged 77 years. In the same vault lies buried John Pond, the Astronomer Royal, born 1767, died at Greenwich 1836, aged 69 years.

A few yards in front of this tomb lies Cocking, the aeronaut, who fell from Mr. Charles Green's balloon, in a parachute, in a field called Broom Field, Burnt Ash Hill, July 24th, 1837.

Southward from the north-east corner of the churchyard is a large pyramidal tomb, with the arms of the family of Call. In a vault underneath is buried Sir John Call, Bart., F.R.S., of Whitford, in Cornwall, who died at the Manor House, Old Road, Lee, March 1801, aged 69; and his son, John B. Call, aged 17, also died at the Manor House, then the seat of Sir Francis Baring, Bart. Farther to the north-east corner, lies buried William Parsons, Esq., the actor, who died Feb. 3rd, 1795, aged 59: on the headstone is the following inscription:—

"Here Parsons lies. Oft on life's busy stage,
With Nature, Reader, hast thou seen him vie;
He science knew, knew the manners, knew the age;
Respected knew to live; lamented, die."

Also to his son, Master William Parsons, who died November 1st, 1791, aged 12½ years :—

“You that have lost an angel, pity me !”

On the right, after you enter the churchyard gate, is the grave and headstone of Ann Cook, servant to Nathaniel Scarlett, Esq., of Lee-place, who died in 1821, at the advanced age of 104 years. Also near the footpath, in the front of the former, lies buried Mr. William Sidery, the grandfather of the present family, who was an active parochial officer. He died 1st December, 1825, aged 54, leaving a widow and large family, honoured and respected by his fellow-parishioners of Lee, who could all bear testimony of his worth during a residence of 25 years, and also to the manifold services he had rendered to the parish as Overseer and other important offices for many years, notwithstanding his business engagements. His solicitude for the improvement of the poor, and his zeal and energy in conducting his public offices were beyond all praise.

During Mr. Sidery's overseership a very curious circumstance of parochial settlement was adjudicated by the magistrates in petty session at Blackheath, in 1816. A young man, a farm servant to Mr. Richard Starnes, of Horn Park Farm, was taken ill, and became chargeable to this parish ; but the boundary of Lee and Eltham going through the centre of the house, his bed in fact being in the two parishes, there arose the difficulty of which parish should be taxed with the settlement. The Bench decided that as the young man on getting out of bed would stand in Eltham parish, Eltham must be charged with his maintenance ; and so the case was settled, to the entire satisfaction of Lee.

The churchyard being so near London, many opulent citizens are interred in it.

A little distance from the north-east corner is the family vault and tomb to the memory of the Rev. George Lock, who died 17th November, 1864, at the old Rectory house, adjoining the old churchyard, in the 94th year of his age, and the 62nd of his incumbency.

The Rev. G. Lock was inducted to the living of Lee (which is in the gift of the Lord Chancellor) 3rd September, 1803, on the death of Courtney, the Lord Bishop of Exeter, and his duties were performed in no less than three churches of Lee, viz., the first, built of chalk and flint (it is supposed in the reign of William the Conqueror, he having given the church and manor to his half-brother, Odo, Bishop of Baieux) ; the second, a beautiful little structure, built on the same site as the first, to accommodate the increased population, with 500 sittings, the former having only 150 ; (this church was opened August 14th, 1814, and was afterwards for many years regularly attended by H.R.H. the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, Lord Bexley, and many of the nobility,) and also in the present church. This last church was consecrated by Murray, Lord Bishop of Rochester, and the Rector's youngest daughter, Miss Julia Lock, was the first bride that was led to the altar (which gracious act was performed by Lord Bexley) to be married to the Rev. Mr. Hanson.

Mr. Lock lived to see many changes in the parish. The population in 1801 was only 300 ; in 1841 it had increased to 2,359 ; and at the time of the rev. gentleman's death 8,000. Mr. Lock's kind attention to the sick and poor was beyond all praise ; and at one time, in 1809, he had, at his own expense, Dr. Moore (a pupil of the famous Dr. Jenner, and brother of Sir John Moore, who fell at Corunna), to vaccinate all those children whose parents could be induced to allow it to be done, in order to prevent the spreading of that dreadful scourge

the small-pox, and many a valuable life was thus saved. He also attended in her last moments the eccentric Lady Dacre, who died at Dacre House in 1808. On the occasion of the consecration of the present church a silver model of the same was presented to him by the inhabitants as a token of their great respect.

After a lapse of twelve years, the present church of St. Margaret's was inadequate to the increasing wants of the population, and the parishioners resolved, out of respect to their Rector, to build another church, to be called "Christ Church," after the name of the college at Oxford in which he was educated, and present it to him on the fiftieth anniversary of his presentation to the living of Lee, and which was done on the 3rd September, 1853, on which occasion the following lines were penned by a local poet :—

"JUBILEE DAY.

"BY JOSIAH THOMAS.

"It is Jubilee Day, and we've met here with pride,
To welcome our father, our pastor and guide,
Who for fifty long years hath his duties performed,
While the breasts of the poor at his presence have warm'd.
For they knew that in him they'd a kind-hearted friend,
Who would to their cares and their sorrows attend.
Then a hearty hurrah ! shout again and again,
For the heart that can feel for another man's pain.

"Oh ! when did the wretched for sympathy wait,
Or the widow and fatherless turn from his gate ;
The beggar he'd chide, but relieve his distress,
For the fires of pity burned high in his breast.
The dying would bless him ; with purse and with prayer,
He'd drive out the demons of want and despair.
Then a hearty hurrah ! &c.

"I have watched him in sunshine, I've watched him in rain,
I have watched him in health and I've watched him in pain,
I have watched him when wide desolation was spread,
And the snowflakes were falling full fast on his head.
But his step it was quick, and his purpose was sure,
When out on errand for helping the poor.
Then a hearty hurrah ! &c.

"Our children shall mention in ages to come,
How their forefathers told of the deeds he had done ;
And the name of a LOCK, and the fame of his worth
Shall rank with the generous spirits of earth ;
And Envy shall turn from his task in despair,
If he ventures to tarnish a name that's so fair.
Then a hearty hurrah ! shout again and again
For the heart that can feel for another man's pain."

"*Lee, Kent, Sept. 3rd, 1853.*"

It pleased God to spare Mr. Lock's life to see the eleventh anniversary of the dedication of this church ; but soon after that time, this good minister of God's Word departed this life in peace, full of honour, beloved and respected by all, both rich and poor.

The funeral took place at one o'clock on Thursday afternoon, November 25th, 1864, the mortal remains of the deceased being consigned to their last resting-place in the family vault before mentioned, wherein are also deposited the remains of his wife, who died twenty-eight years before him, those of his two daughters, Miss Lock and Mrs. Hanson, and of two of his grandchildren. Miss Lock died at the late residence of

her grandmother, Eliot Vale, Blackheath, in 1877, aged 71; Mrs. Hanson died at the old Rectory in 1862, aged 53; Mrs. Moore, died at Eltham in 1870, aged 25; and Mr. Sydenham George Hanson, died at Lee in 1878, aged 32. The Rector left strict injunctions that his funeral should be as private as possible; but he had rendered himself so dear to his parishioners that large numbers flocked to pay their last mournful tribute of respect to his memory, and all felt that a great shepherd in Israel had been gathered to his rest.

Mr. Lock resided in the old Rectory sixty-one years. This building having fallen much into decay, the new Rector, the Rev. Charles Lawrence, built the present one on a much larger scale.

The first stone of the new Rectory was laid on the 2nd October, 1866, by Mrs. Lawrence, the Rector's wife, in the presence of a small assembly, including the Rector, the Revds. T. Needham and J. Kempthorne (curates), Messrs. S. H. de Zoete and H. M. Lawrence (churchwardens), F. H. Hart and William Sidery (sidesmen), Ewin Christian (architect), and Benjamin Wells (builder). Mrs. Lawrence was presented with an ivory-handled silver trowel by Master Duncan Lawrence, son of the Churchwarden, and having spread the mortar, the stone was lowered and adjusted, when she gave three taps with a mahogany mallet, and the foundation-stone was declared duly laid. Within the stone were deposited a bottle containing that day's *Times*, one each of the silver coins of the realm of that year's coinage, and a parchment document, on which was as follows:—"This stone was laid by Mrs. Charles Lawrence, wife of the Rector, the Rev. Charles Lawrence, on Tuesday, Oct. 2nd, 1866." Mr. Hart proposed three cheers in honour of the occasion, which were duly responded to. The party were afterwards entertained by the Rector to a luncheon.

The old Rectory and three-quarters of an acre of land were purchased by John Penn, Esq., and added to The Cedars estate. The house was sold by auction April 6th, 1866, and on being pulled down, the materials were found to be very much decayed; the principal timbers in the brickwork walls being entirely rotten. The old house had been built 230 years, and bore all the marks of age, from having been exposed to the winds and changes of weather for so long a time. It underwent many alterations and repairs in order to keep it tenable during the incumbency of Mr. Lock, who, when informed of the creaking timbers, used to say it was "a false alarm."

On the west side of the old Church Tower, and near the former Rectory garden, is the large mausoleum of the Boone family, erected for the interment of its members, who formerly lived at Lee, in an ancient red brick mansion, surrounded by a moat, in the Old Road, for many years called "Boone's Mansion," and which was pulled down in 1824, when the whole of the estate was sold for building purposes.

Christopher Boone, merchant, of London, and Mary his wife, by their deed, in 1683, enfeoffed the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company, of London, in a parcel of land in the parish, on which they built a chapel and four houses, one of the latter a residence for a school-mistress, who should teach poor children to read and work; and the others for six poor ancient alms-people; also a piece of ground for a garden plot, and 23 acres of land near Dacre House, let for £15 per annum; also the sum of £42 per annum out of fee farm rent of the City of Hereford; in trust, that the said Master and Wardens should

pay yearly sums to the several recipients of the charity, and likewise provide firing, gowns, and other necessaries for the use and comfort of the almsfolk and children; the residue of the income of the charity to defray the costs of repairs. The deed further provided that the Master and Wardens were to visit their charge on the first Thursday in July every year; the Rector of Lee to be the chaplain, or if he refused or be removed, then the Vicar of Lewisham, or failing him, some other Minister of the Church of England; the school-mistress to teach twelve poor children, to be presented by the Rector and Churchwardens of Lee; the alms-people, two in a house, to be men or women of the poor of this parish, who had lived orderly, and supported themselves by honest labour in their younger days; or if there could not be found such of the parish of Lee, then of Lewisham, and if not there, then of Greenwich.

Thomas Boone, Christopher's son, died in 1749, and left the mansion by will to his natural daughter, who married Charles Comforts, Esq. This lady died in 1777, when the estate, by limitation in Thomas Boone's will, went to his nephew, son of his brother. Charles Boone, Esq., possessed it till his death in 1819, when it passed to Lady Drummond, his only daughter.

Charles Boone was the last descendant of the family who resided in the mansion at Lee. He let the mansion and grounds and left the neighbourhood. The family for many generations lived here in a hospitable manner; and by their last representative leaving Lee, the poor of the parish had to deplore the loss of many liberal benefactions in several instances of charity.

Charles Boone, Esq., died in 1819, at the advanced age of 90 years; Harriet, his wife, died previously, in 1811, aged 67; and their son Charles, a promising boy, died at Lee in 1786. All three were interred in the family mausoleum in the old churchyard.

Mr. Boone, on leaving Lee, let the mansion and grounds to Benjamin Aislabie, Esq., on a lease for fourteen years. Mr. Aislabie was a partner with Mr. B. Standing, of the Minories, an eminent and old-established firm of wine merchants, who had the distinguished honour of supplying the immortal Nelson with wine, and whose successors have in their office at the present time a letter of Lord Nelson's own handwriting, thanking them for their attention to his requirements.

Mr. Aislabie lived here many years and took an active part in the parochial affairs of Lee. Although a very corpulent man, being upwards of twenty stone weight, he was a famous fox-hunter and cricket player. He was overseer, with the elder Mr. Sidery, at the opening of the second St. Margaret's Church, in 1814; and took a lively interest in distributing the charities that severe winter to the poor; he also placed to the use of the parish the buildings in the front yard of his mansion, for the storage of coals and potatoes, which were given to the poor during the thirteen weeks' frost; bread was very dear at this time, and Lee had no poor-house. Mr. Aislabie also much improved the mansion and grounds, and employed many labourers during the severe weather.

Mrs. Aislabie was a charming and most accomplished lady, who, in this rural home trained up a nice family of one son and five daughters, in the virtues of a well-bred country family, with domestic affection and Christian humility. The young ladies were educated by an accomplished governess, and were intelligent, pleasant, and agreeable; indeed, the

family were the admiration of the neighbourhood. They also kept a well ordered establishment of servants.

In the year 1822, the Churchwardens and Overseers resolved to walk the parish bounds, and Mr. Aislabie walked and rode the whole distance, fourteen miles, with ease. In the year following, his tenancy of Boone's Mansion expired, and his family removed to Sevenoaks, where Mr. Aislabie died at an advanced age.

The property was sold by auction by Messrs. Driver, on 22nd October, 1824, in ten lots, comprising about twelve acres. One lot of three acres was purchased by the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company, for the building of thirty almshouses; the first stone of which was laid in 1826 by Thomas Bulcock Burbridge, Esq. The entrance to these houses is in Brandram-road, and the south range of buildings faces the High-road, Lee. The lawn and plantations were tastefully laid out by Messrs. Willmot, of the old Lewisham Nursery, and have always been beautifully kept by the resident gardener. William Faulkner, the present gardener, has improved the flower beds very much by bedding out geraniums and planting a variety of beautiful annuals in front of the shrubbery. The buildings form three sides of a square, and the lawn sloping southwards, towards the High-road, gives the whole a charming appearance. The land cost about £1500. The old Boone's Almshouses (built in the year 1683, and designed by Sir Christopher Wren, architect for Christopher Boone, of London, merchant, and Mary his wife) were pulled down in 1876, leaving the ancient chapel. Over the main doorway of this chapel there was formerly an angel beautifully carved in stone, but the iron supports having fallen into decay, it was blown down one night by a storm and broken into fragments, also the ancient octagon cupola and bell; the present is the one erected in its place. Some members of the Boone family lie interred under the north window of this chapel.

Before the new road was made in 1826, there were many accidents at this sharp angle of the old road with the fruit carts and vehicles that travelled to and from the London markets. One Wednesday, in the year 1813, during morning prayers in the chapel, a horse and chaise was driven down the road with such fury, that the horse, being unable to turn, burst open the door of the front entrance of the chapel and fell on the floor, to the astonishment of the Rector and congregation. At this time service was performed here during the building of the second St. Margaret's Church.

In former times these ancient almspeople had the advantage of a fruit garden; and on the site where the greenhouse is now, stood a wash-house, which was provided with a mangle; and washing and mangling were done by those who had sufficient strength, and this enabled some of them to earn a small sum to help support their poorer relations.

Elderberries were grown here for making wine, that being a favorite beverage among the poorer class in winter. The pears and apples were generally grown very fine, as there was a rivulet constantly running in the rear of the orchard which kept the trees well supplied with nourishment.

The inmates were often visited by their wealthy neighbours inhabiting the mansions in Lee, who took much interest in providing everything the almspeople required during illness or in severe winters, in purchasing coals and making soup, as an addition to the annual income from the charity. There were at this time very few poor in Lee that

required assistance, except in hard times, such as when frozen-out in the severe winters that we formerly had.

Lady Dacre was very attentive to them in a methodical manner. In the winter of 1807 she purchased and clothed the women with a warm stuff gown and short Red-riding-hood cloak and neat Quakeress bonnet. They wore the cloaks for some years after her death, in 1808, out of respect to her memory, in fact, until they were nearly turned from red to black in consequence of age. To the men she gave brown coats with large silver-gilt buttons.

There were seven mansions in Lee at this time inhabited by wealthy families; and as there were seven of these poor almspeople, each poor person had the privilege of calling one day weekly at each house, in order to receive what surplus broken victuals were left after the family's previous day's requirements, and which was put into a brown Welsh dish, left on the hall sideboard for that purpose.

The sale of the Boone property, in 1824, comprised twelve acres of meadow land, and realised £5530. Two years after this sale the Merchant Taylors built the thirty new almshouses, and Dacre-street and Church-street were made, and houses erected for the labouring classes. This extensive building deprived the mansions belonging to the wealthy merchants of the rural scene and beautiful landscape, and changed the picturesque character which for ages had adorned Lee, and caused several of the old inhabitants to leave the parish after the expiration of their leases, and seek the more quiet retreats at a further distance from London. The old mansion was sold in lots, and when pulled down was found to have been built in a very substantial manner; the principal girders in the roof were composed of whole trees of oak, merely the bark being chipped off. The interior of the principal rooms was wainscoted with oak and Spanish chesnut beautifully carved and polished; in the entrance hall hung trophies of the chase; and agricultural and horticultural produce, and the various implements used in the farm and garden, beautifully carved by Grinling Gibbons, in the early part of the 17th century, hung there in festoons.

There were three famous rookeries on this estate; one on the north side of Dacre-street, adjoining Dacre House; one on the island, now Church-street; and the other in a fine avenue of lime trees in the orchard in front of Pentland House, in the Old-road. The rooks remained in these trees for many years, until 1857, when most of the trees decayed at the root, in consequence of the deposit of marine shells and clay from the main sewer made through Lee in that year. The trees were taken down to avoid accidents, and the rooks migrated to The Cedars, the grounds of the late John Penn, Esq. The ancient plane tree mentioned by Hasted in his "Survey of Kent," 1797, is still growing here in front of the south side of the High-road, and is to be seen from the terrace in front of the post office; this tree is the only relic left of the original number that were growing in Lee early in the present century. There was a fine row of plane trees of the same description growing on the Boone estate, running the whole length of Brandram-road to Lee Church. A severe storm of thunder and lightning, in November, 1809, injured these trees so much, that the sap not circulating in them the following summer, the whole were cut down and sold for timber; each tree was near two yards in girth. The loss of these beautiful trees spoilt the effect of the fine avenue leading to the church, there being a row of handsome elms on the opposite side of the road.

The land which is now St. Margaret's Churchyard, Church-terrace, and 2 and 4, Lee-terrace, was formerly part of the Boone estate, and was bought by T. Brandram, Esq., J.P., at the sale. Boone's-road and Royal Oak-place were bought by T. Allen Shuter, Esq. Here stood one of the finest oaks in the county, the trunk being four yards girth; with a fine clean stem, twenty feet clear of the ground before throwing out its main branches, indeed, it was the admiration of this part of the county. Sir G. B. Airey, the Astronomer Royal, often admired this noble king of the forest, this being his favourite walk, from the Observatory, Greenwich-park to Lee. The whole of these beautiful views of Lady Dacre's park and the Boone estate were open to the public gaze on all sides, either by low hawhaw fences or dwarf thorn hedges. Boone's estate was partly enclosed with a fine moat and island, well stocked with water towl and fish. This moat was called the looking glass of Lee, and was supplied by a fine spring of beautifully clear water, rising from the high ground, now Boone's-road.

Before this land was built upon there was an iron pipe that conveyed the water from the high ground to the front of the cottages at the rear of the Royal Oak inn; this spring supplied all the cottages in Church and Dacre-streets, the overflow running into the head of the moat in the rear of the National-schools. This fine piece of water ran from here southwards as far as Messrs. Bloxham and Dale's shops, corner of Turner-road, and from thence, westwards, to the rear of the old almshouses; a short branch ran farther south to the ancient plane tree, and under a bridge to the boat house; the overflow ran in the rear of Woodland-villas into the Quaggy-river.

The house on the south front of Boone's Mansion was formerly the residence of the ancient family of Bonor, who removed from Lee to Camden House, Chislehurst, late the residence of Eugenie, the ex-Empress of the French. A few years after leaving Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Bonor were assassinated in their bedchamber at night, by the hand of their valet, who, after committing the horrible deed, was sent by the family to London to give information to the old Bow-street Runners. He passed through Lee and Lewisham, galloping on horseback, holloaing out that murder had been committed below. Townsend and Lavender, two of the most experienced detectives, were sent down to Chislehurst, and they soon discovered that the assassin had broken the drawing-room windows from the inside of the mansion. The valet, on his return journey, got inebriated at the inns in the New Cross-road, and, on arriving home, the officers that he had given information to at once took him into custody on suspicion of being the murderer. He was committed to Maidstone on the capital charge, and was hung at Pedingden Heath, near Maidstone; afterwards his body was given up for dissection, and his skeleton was deposited in Dr. Scott's Museum, in the adjoining village of Bromley. This sad affair happened in May, 1813. Mr. and Mrs. Bonor were great benefactors to all the charities in the neighbourhood, and fervently hoped that they both should be permitted to depart from this uncertain world together, but little thought that it would be by the hand of a domestic assassin. The inhabitants of Chislehurst erected a monument to their memory in the churchyard, on the left-hand entrance of the liche gate, to record the sad event.

The old house at Lee was sold to Mr. Hunt, the Treasurer of the Ordnance Department at Somerset House, who made considerable improvements and additions to the buildings and grounds. After a few

years, Mr. Hunt having appropriated to his own use some Government money, the estate was seized by the Ordnance Department, and sold to James Rice Williams, Esq., one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and for many years Chairman of the Bench sitting at the "Green Man" Hotel, Blackheath. After a residence here of twenty-one years, he died April, 1831, aged 82.

The family left Lee after his death, and the house and grounds were sold to James Young, Esq., one of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House; who also purchased "Lampe Meade," a little piece of land in the rear of his estate, the proceeds of which were invested in the purchase of £233 6s. 8d. consols, whereof the dividends are applicable to the repairs of the parish church, for which purpose it was bequeathed by William Hatcliffe, the founder of "Hatcliffe's Charity."

After the death of Mr. Young, this estate became the property of his eldest son, James Halliburton Young, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this division of the county, who now resides here; and who purchased the adjoining property (Lee House) on the east side, the mansion and grounds recently in the occupation of the late W. Forbes Stuart, Esq.

Mr. Young has added one of the Lee House avenues of trees to his paternal estate, and enclosed it with a substantial brick wall, and made great improvements in extending and increasing the width of his lawn and pleasure grounds, planting choice evergreens, deciduous and flowering shrubs; also building substantial hothouses and vineries, and planting them with the most approved kinds; and in a very short space of time grew the finest grapes ever brought to perfection in Lee. On the centre of the lawn, at the rear of the house, stands one of the finest specimens of the cedar Lebanon that can be seen in this county; this handsome and noble tree covers an immense space, and is a host in itself; it is also a great protection and covering for the many potted evergreens that can be put under it for shelter. A little further down the lawn is a fine specimen of the maiden-hair tree—very scarce in this county. These trees must have been planted in the early part of the last century, and are the admiration of all the visitors who have seen them. Mr. Young takes much interest in all gardening improvements, employing many tradesmen and labourers on his premises, and is most courteous in showing his visitors anything in his pleasure grounds or gardens they wish to see. He has, within the last few years, purchased the old kitchen garden in front of his house, formerly Boone's, in order to prevent buildings being erected, and as the owners of the other frontages on the Old-road to the west are covenanted not to build without the consent of each freeholder, it makes this a favorite promenade, and quite a paradise for birds in the summer season. There was formerly, in the past century, a house between Mr. Young's house and the Manor-house stables, occupied by Mr. Samuel Brandram before he purchased The Cedars of Miss Boyfield, 1790. This old house was bought and pulled down by Mr. Bonor, in order to build the modern part of Mr. Young's residence.

Lee House was formerly the residence of Sir Thomas Fludyer, the father of Lady Dacre, who was born here in the year 1755, in a noble old mansion that stood on the site of the present one, and which was very ancient, being built in the Tudor times of architecture. It was sold, in 1768, to Mr. Pelham, M.P., who laid out upon the property a considerable sum, and almost rebuilt the mansion; the situation at that time had a commanding view eastwards over Lee-park, Kidbrook, and

Severndroog Castle, Shooter's-hill, also the open country to Well Hall and Eltham Palace. Lee being near London, made this place of great importance to gentlemen whose business took them to the city or Westminster. Mr. Pelham's family lived here many years, and kept a well-ordered establishment in an hospitable manner. He built one of the largest wine cellars in Lee, also the stables and coach houses afterwards pulled down to make improvements by Mr. Young. Fancy gardening having about this time crept in from Holland, these gardens were tastefully laid out by a Dutch gardener, and well planted with choice evergreens and deciduous trees, also fruit trees of the finest quality from Holland. The lawn was beautifully elevated above the meadows, and had an avenue of lofty trees on each side, some at present still remaining; with a fine ornamental sheet of water, kept up by penstocks, in the centre of the grounds, which comprised twelve acres at this time. Also a number of statues of the ancients were placed in various parts of the grounds, as was more generally the custom at former times. After the death of Mr. Pelham, the mansion was let to Mrs. Patterson, who resided here up to the beginning of the present century. After her death, the estate was purchased by W. Morland, Esq., M.P. for Taunton, Somerset, and of the eminent banking firm, Morland, Ransom and Co., 56, Pall Mall. He lived here many years, and kept a full establishment, and went daily to town on business. He died at his town house, 1815, aged 72, and was buried at Woolwich. Madam Morland lived here many years after her husband's death, and died 1826. The estate afterwards came into the possession of their grandson, Sir Francis Bernard Morland, who built the present mansion in 1830. Sir Francis died at Nettleham, Bucks, in 1876, aged 86.

Many of the old houses in Lee were very small and inconvenient before additions were made to them, many of them partly built with boards and very cold in winter; some had been old farm houses centuries ago, when Lee was more rural, that is before this delightful village was inhabited by families of fortune. The old houses were either pulled down or additional rooms built to them. These alterations often told the tale of their antiquity, as many were found to have clay mixed with rushes, instead of plaster and brick, for partitions. Old Lee House, when pulled down, was found to be one of that ancient build. Also an old house that formerly stood on the north side, in front of the latter, and occupied by Mr. A. Rowland, of maccassar oil celebrity, which, on the new High-road being made, was purchased by Sir F. B. Morland, in order to build a lodge and make a front entrance to Lee House.

The land in front of Pentland House, the property of R. Whyte, Esq., was the kitchen garden to Boone's old mansion. It was purchased by Capt. Matthew Smith, R.N., and bequeathed by him to his nephew, Col. B. Smith, who afterwards sold it to Col. T. Smith (no relation to the former gentleman). Pentland House was formerly an old red brick mansion, and has, in the present century, had many changes of occupants. Sir Thomas Baring resided here, 1808, during his father's (Sir Francis Baring) residence at the Manor House, adjoining. His son, F. Thornhill Baring, the first Lord Northbrook, as one of the West Kent Volunteers, was drilled here on the lawn at the rear of the mansion, where stood a noble cedar Lebanon that formed a covering for the whole company of rifles during wet weather. After Sir Thomas Baring's tenancy, and in the time of the first Napoleon, when many French refugees of high repute had to seek shelter in this country, Monsieur Grammania, a fine

specimen of a French gentleman, established a ladies' boarding school here; and, being patronised by Lady Percival, met with great success with many noble families, as he taught the rudiments of the French language, combined with the polite manners of French society. Queen Caroline visited this establishment during her stay at Percival House, Blackheath, in 1820.

Capt. M. Smith retiring from the Navy, in 1822, required his residence; but after so many years it was dilapidated, and the brick facings of the exterior being much weatherbeaten, he resolved to put the whole in thorough repair. He had the whole of the brickwork stuccoed, and additions were made at the east end, which gave the mansion a modern appearance, and its gallant owner lived here some years to enjoy the benefit of the improvements. Admiral Sir George Martin, K.C.B., resided here some years. He was brother-in-law to the Rev. G. Lock, then Rector of Lee, and liberally contributed to all the parochial charities, and kept a good establishment of servants, and employed many of the tradespeople. After the death of Sir George and Lady Martin, Col. Bellingham J. Smith came into the possession of the mansion and grounds, bequeathed to him by his uncle, Capt. M. Smith, as was also a fine collection of valuable paintings, art virtu, and family relics. He resided here until 1856, when his old associates being either dead or left the parish, he sold the whole by auction and went to live in London. Col. T. Smith, having bought the mansion and grounds, resided here a few years, and disposed of the same to the present owner, Robert Whyte, Esq., who has modernized the interior and improved the whole for domestic and personal convenience, so as to render it available for the requirements of the present age.

Most of these old mansions had to undergo many alterations and additions in order to adapt them to the comfort and taste of their present owners. The adjoining substantial mansion, which was purchased by J. W. Larking, Esq., has had expended on it a considerable sum, in order to adapt it for domestic convenience and to make it conduce to the happiness of his family.

The Manor House, Old-road, and the ancient Manor of Lee, in the county of Kent, was sold by Lord Sondes, in the year 1775, to the great-grandfather of the present Earl Northbrook, Sir Francis Baring, Bart., who purchased the Manor of Lee and its two appendages called Shroefields and Bankers.

As early as the reign of Edward I. the old Manor House was the residence of an ancient family called Bankwell, written in the Bishop of Rochester's register "Banquelle." The present substantial Manor House was built by a famous Dr. Lucas, about the year 1777, whose widow resided here some years after his death. Afterwards Sir Francis Baring purchased the Manor of Lee, and resided in the mansion until his death, in the year 1809, when it descended to his son, Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., who, after a few years, let the mansion and grounds to Frederick Perkins, Esq., the opulent brewer, of the Southwark-brewery, on a twenty-one years' lease. After the expiration of the lease it was occupied by Sir Francis Thornhill Baring, Bart., First Lord of the Admiralty, and grandson of Sir Francis; and afterwards by many other persons of note. H. Wolfram, Esq., is the present occupier.

The Manor extends from Lee Green southwards to the parish of Bromley. Burnt Ash-lane separates the Crown Manor from the Manor of Lee and the Crown property.

The origin of "Burnt-ash," was in consequence of the felling of timber formerly grown in the woods, the loppings and roots of which were burnt for the manufacture of charcoal for sale in London.

Burnt Ash Farm contained many acres of woodland. In the year 1823, Mr. William Wiggins, farmer, grubbed up the woods near where St. Mildred's Church now stands, and burnt charcoal.

The estate is bounded on the west side by the parish of Lewisham. The boundary of Lee and Lewisham is marked by a small bourn or rivulet that joins the Quaggy river, which, at times, rises to ten or twelve feet in height, and is very dangerous to persons living in the lower part of Lee High-road and Lee-bridge. In the year of the great frost, 1813-14, snow remained on the land one-and-a-half feet deep for thirteen weeks; a sudden thaw came and a large quantity of ice blocked up the Quaggy at each of the bridges built over the river and caused the road to be impassable. The inhabitants had to remove to the upper floors of their houses, with their fowls and pigs; the boats from Manor House and Lee Grove conveyed provisions and the necessaries of life for ten days to keep them from starvation; and the lower part of the house on the right-hand side of Lee-bridge was washed away by the force of water to the opposite side, into Lewisham-road, and the occupants narrowly escaped being drowned, as it happened in the early morning.

Weardale-road and Manor-park bounds the west side of the property, excluding The Firs, a large house, built of red brick, with one front facing the Old-road, towards the east, and another, westwards, overlooking Manor-park and Hither-green; now the property of J. Wingfield Larking, Esq., one of the Magistrates for the county of Kent, and representative of the Viceroy of Egypt in England.

This seat was for many years the residence of the ancient family of Pampillion. David Pampillion, Esq., died here in 1806, at a very advanced age; after his death it was sold to Christopher Godmond, Esq., an eminent solicitor, of London, who resided here until the death of his wife. Afterwards it was in the occupation of Sir Edward Paget, who had returned from the Peninsular War. It was afterwards purchased, at the expiration of a short lease granted to E. Lankester, Esq. (son-in-law of Matthias Prime Lucas, of Dacre House, late Lord Mayor of London,) by Joseph Sladen, Esq., of the eminent firm of proctors, Sladen, Glennie and Co., Doctors' Commons, who lived in the mansion many years, and made some extensive improvements. He was hospitable at home, also charitable to the poor of Lee; he died 3rd August, 1855, aged 80, and was buried in the family vault, in the north-west corner of the old churchyard. The full text of the "Sladen Trusts," the dividends of which are applied to certain pious and charitable purposes, is given hereafter.

The house on the opposite side of Manor-lane was purchased by Joseph Sladen, Esq., in order to make improvements on that side of his estate. It was formerly the old Manor Farm; and in the rear were very extensive farm buildings, let by Sir Thomas Baring to Mr. Thomas Postans for many years. The whole of the buildings were purchased and taken down for the above purpose, except the farm house, which was converted into a more comfortable residence, and afterwards occupied by Lady Pallisear, widow of Sir Hugh Pallisear, late governor of Greenwich Hospital. After her decease it was leased to Miss Hart, for a preparatory school for young gentlemen of the upper-class families. In the year 1863 the lease was purchased for the remainder of the term

by Colonel Smith, then owner of the house adjoining; it is now the property of J. W. Larking, Esq. Manor-lane divides this property for a short distance from Lord Northbrook's, and extends nearly one mile southwards to the land now let for building. On the left-hand at the entrance of this lane are the spacious walled-in kitchen gardens. The walls were built for Sir Francis Baring, about 1800, and a choice collection of fruit trees, many from France and Holland, were planted under the management of a practical gardener. The collection of fruit in these gardens was accounted one of the best on this side of London. It is now converted into the Manor Nursery, with the few remaining hot-houses and forcing pits. The whole of them, including the outside slips, contains about three acres, which were leased to Mr. W. North, in 1878.

After Mr. Postans retired from Manor Farm in 1816, it was let to Mr. R. E. Brown on a twenty-one years' lease. Mr. Postans had the management of the Manor gardens, in 1830, for a few years, in order to supply the officers' mess at St. James's Palace. He was steward of the mess in the year 1825, and the cream-colour ponies of King George IV. were often sent to Lee for the conveyance of the fruit to the palace. At the expiration of Mr. Brown's lease, Mr. Postans again held the farm under Sir Thomas Baring. In 1845, Mr. Mark Cordwell, father of the present tenant, became the occupier. The acreage of this part of the estate in Lee parish is upwards of 500 acres.

Formerly there was a Manor-pound, which stood about sixty yards from the entrance to Burnt Ash-lane, on the east side, where all stray cattle was impounded. A bailiff was chosen at the Court Leet or Baron, charged by the steward to collect the annual perquisites and profits of the said manor. In addition there was also chosen an ale-conner, whose duty it was to taste the ale; also a hogwarden, whose duty was to see that all hogs were duly provided with rings, in order that they should not plough up the meadows in the acorn season. The Court Leet, though rarely kept, was held in 1800; after that time it was allowed to fall into abeyance for 40 years. The last Court Leet for which the jurors were summoned was held in 1841; since that time it has become obsolete, as persons refused to pay after it had been suffered to go in arrear for so many years. The quit rents for waste lands belonging to the Lord of the Manor of Lee amounted to £40 per annum. Since that date there have been many pieces of waste land taken into some of the various estates at Lee. In 1798, about 150 yards from the pound, further up Burnt Ash-lane, on the west side, stood a dog kennel; and near it a well of good water, to supply the cottages that formerly stood in the lane for the use of the labourers of Farmers Giles and Morris, who rented most of the land in Lee and Eltham.





CHAPTER II.

DACRE House—The Fludyer Family—Lady Dacre—Mr. Roper—Successive Occupiers of Dacre Estate—Robbers—The Cedars Estate—Additions by Mr. Brandram—Public Improvements, Belmont Hill—Terrington's Cottage—Diverting Love Lane—Gipsies' Encampment—Enclosing Open Spaces—Mr. Brandram and the new Church—Purchase of The Cedars by Mr. Penn—Improvements and Additions—Alteration of Road—The fine Elm Trees—Views of Mansion and Grounds—Kitchen Garden—Shooter's Hill—Severndroog Castle—Wricklemarsh House—Morden College—Eltham Palace and Parks—Hamlet of Mottingham—Claypit Farm—Grove Park.

E now take our readers to two other important estates in the parish of Lee; namely, Dacre House and The Cedars estates, both lying north of the High-road, and very near to the Parish Church. In both these estates we shall find that the changes have been as great as any we have mentioned in the previous chapter.

Sir Samuel Fludyer died at Dacre House, January, 1768, aged 63, and he bequeathed the estate to his brother, Sir Thomas Fludyer, who at that time resided in Lee House. Sir Samuel was twice Lord Mayor of London, and was created Baronet in 1759. He was buried in the old churchyard, and an elegant monument was erected by the family, near the old Rectory.

Sir Thomas Fludyer died the following year, March, 1769, aged 57. He left the estate to his only daughter, Mary, who, in 1773, married Trevor Charles Roper, Esq., on which he became possessed of this estate; he was the eldest son of the Hon. George Roper, the son of Lord Teynham, by his second wife, Ann, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Lennard Earl of Sussex and Baroness Dacre, whose second husband he was. Her first husband was Thomas Lennard Barret, Esq., by whom she had a son, the late Thomas Lennard Barret, Lord Dacre, on whose death, *s.p.* in 1786, Trevor Charles Roper, Esq., above mentioned, succeeded to that title and became Baron Dacre.

On his death, at this seat, in July, 1794, aged 49, he left it to his widow, Baroness Dacre, who lived here in a hospitable and charitable manner. She erected a very handsome monument, composed of beautiful white marble, with a large urn encircled and the figure of a serpent on the top. Lady Dacre paid great attention to this tomb of her deceased lord by frequently visiting it. His lordship, at his decease, left £40 per annum to a male servant, who used to be seen on a Saturday washing and cleansing it, during her ladyship's lifetime; and at her death she left the said servant £30 per annum, in addition to the £40 left by her lamented husband, but no attention appears now to be paid to his noble benefactor's and benefactress's monument.

Lady Dacre, during her widowhood of fourteen years, showed an extraordinary instance of conjugal love and affection by offering up a prayer in the churchyard alone, every evening during fair weather, until a highway robber demanded her gold watch and chain, which she very reluctantly gave him.

These robberies were often committed, sometimes even in noonday. On one occasion a lady and gentleman was attacked in a chaise, near where is now the private entrance to the Rectory garden, in Lee Terrace, by a highwayman, and robbed of their watches and appendages; but the gentleman having a tolerably good horse gave chase, and the man was captured, and afterwards suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

After the Baroness was robbed she had one of her domestics to follow her at a short distance to the churchyard. She died at her seat here, on the 11th September, 1808, aged 53, and lies buried with her husband. A large number of the parishioners flocked from Dacre House to the churchyard to pay their last mournful tribute of respect to the memory of a lady who, for such a number of years, had been so charitable to the poor. The estate then became the property of Charles Trevor Roper, a member of the late Baroness's family.

Dacre House had a handsome brick front, facing west, and overlooking the road to Lewisham; on the north were extensive pleasure grounds, in groves and shrubberies, extending to the kitchen garden, which was enclosed with lofty fruit walls, and adjoined the road east of the old church. There was a remarkably fine billiard room in the pleasure grounds, and a fine collection of plants in the hothouse and greenhouses.

Her ladyship was very methodical in adapting each day to its purpose: in gardening and other pursuits in her wealthy establishment; in dispensing charity, and other noble deeds. She employed many labourers in the gardens and on her farm, which was in front of the mansion. Many tradesmen were employed in various ways on different parts of the estate, who were supervised by her ladyship's steward, Mr. James Lawman, who lived on the farm many years after her death, and managed the estate for Mr. Roper.

Mr. Roper was Colonel of the West Kent Volunteers, and took much interest in their drills, which were generally on his spacious lawn. He kept up the mansion and grounds for a few years after the death of the Baroness, but eventually retired into Wales. He let the estate on lease to Matthias Prime Lucas, Esq., who was afterwards Lord Mayor of London.

Mr. Lucas cultivated the farm with success, the land of which lay on the south-west slope of the hill in front of Brandram-road to the High-road. At this time early peas were grown here for market; also excellent crops of both red and white wheat, which was sold in market in those times at a high price.

Mr. Lucas, retiring from his business in London, purchased a farm near to that of his son-in-law, at Watlingbury, in Kent, where he lived to an advanced age, and was often seen by travellers on the railway, which passed through his estate, to be a veritable patriarch, surrounded by his family.

Dacre House was afterwards let on lease to Thomas Allan Shuter, Esq., for the term of fourteen years, who bought that part of the mansion and pleasure grounds belonging to the Dacre family, of Trevor Blaney Roper, then residing at Plas Tag, Flintshire. Mr. Shuter lived here with his family of sons and daughters in the enjoyment of the mansion and farm. Mrs. Shuter, a daughter of Dr. Valpy, was a lady of agreeable manners, and trained up her family with domestic affection; Mr. Shuter took much interest in public affairs, especially at elections on behalf of Conservative candidates for this county. After the expiration of his

lease, he sold the interest of what he had in this estate, and Dacre House was let for a short term to Richard Bousfield, Esq., who was Churchwarden, with Benjamin Crichton, Esq., of St. Margaret's Church.

The estate after this was cut up and sold for building purposes. Dacre House had a beautiful view from the east, over the open country, to the Old Palace, at Eltham, and the Chislehurst Windmill, on the Common, also to Shooter's Hill and Severndroog Castle.

A great cause of anxiety and fear in these times to all peaceable people, was the fact that many robbers and highwaymen used to commit violence upon travellers from London and Dover, lying in wait for them in the woods and bye roads from Eltham and Woolwich, near Severndroog Castle, and even attacking them at noon day. Two of these most notorious robbers, named Russell and Webb, who resided at Blackheath, were taken here early in this century, and, as they had committed several robberies, both in mansions and on the highways of the neighbouring villages, an example was made by carrying the law into effect, and they were hung by the side of the road at Shooter's-hill, near where now stands the Police Station, and were buried there at the cross roads—the custom in those days. After seventy years' interment their bones were discovered in excavating for the foundation of the Police Station. One of these men confessed that he entered a mansion at Chislehurst, early on a summer evening, and concealed himself under a sofa in the drawing-room during the family's presence, and a small spaniel dog of the Marlborough breed several times licked his face during his concealment. These and other notorious robbers kept the whole country in a state of terror and fear of their predatory visits after dusk; and most houses adopted the plan of having shutters lined with iron, and cross bars and bolts; in fact, every repressive measure was resorted to in order that every household should be prepared to confront these unwelcome visitors. Notice boards were to be seen near the principal mansions, warning persons of the penalty for trespassing; and also the one seldom seen now, "Man traps and spring guns set here," and to verify the same a man trap was often to be seen swinging on the side of the notice board. Spring guns were set in the open nursery grounds, between Lee and the lane leading from Hither Green, Lewisham, as late as 1855, in order to protect the crops.

The old mansion of The Cedars, formerly known as Lee Grove, was inhabited by an ancient family of the name of Boyfield, who sold the same in 1790 to Mr. Samuel Brandram. The name Lee Grove was derived from a beautiful grove of elm trees that adorned the old house the whole way across the field in front to the south hedge. The old building was a small residence compared with the present mansion. Many additions were made by Mr. Brandram, who built the new dining-room, converted the two principal rooms of the old house into a withdrawing room, and built a billiard room adjoining. Most of the old mansions had farm buildings and land attached, and this was the case here. Mr. Brandram had to purchase the land piecemeal of small owners, in order to convert the same into park-like grounds. He laid out a considerable sum in improving the mansion and pleasure grounds, also in planting shrubberies and forming the beautiful lake. The cedars Lebanon were planted in the early part of the last century by the Boyfield family, and are now considered some of the finest specimens of that venerable tree near London.

The road in front of the mansion has been altered from its former position three different times. First, by Mr. Samuel Brandram, in 1808, from close to the front of the old house to the hollow in the front lawn; afterwards, in 1825, from the lodge to Moray Villa, top of Belmont-hill; this road formed a complete triangle across the front field from the east to the south-west corner, from thence to the site of Moray Villa. From this point Belmont-hill was lowered eight feet in front of Belmont House, since built by Mr. G. L. Taylor, the Government Surveyor, in 1830. This lowering of the hill was a grand improvement for the public and the neighbourhood, for the old road was so dark and narrow that few persons would travel it after dusk, and there were no houses but The Cedars and Rectory from Lee Bridge to Park-place, Cresswell-hill, at this time (1825). It had always been a narrow country lane with scarcely room for two carriages to pass each other, except at spaces left for that purpose.

The view from the south front of The Cedars, at this date, was charming, it being over the open country to Sydenham and Norwood hills, the Knockholt Beeches, Eltham Palace, and the windmill on Chislehurst-common. The land southwards was farm and nursery grounds, as far as Bromley parish; the field in front of the old mansion is mentioned in the old records by the name of Ferney Field, on account of the quantity of ferns growing there in their wild state. The field on the north side, now Belmont-grove, was named after the farmer, Holt's Field. The land in the rear of the old churchyard, the Eighteen-Acre Field.

Red bricks were made here a century ago, the sub-soil being excellent for that purpose.

The old footpath leading from Lady Dacre's arch, in Church-terrace, crossed the right angle of the field where the present church is erected, over a step stile into the old churchyard, round the left of the old tower; from thence through the right angle of The Cedars' orchard to the bridge over the railway, Love-lane, where stood the little "Cottage of Content," occupied by Mr. Robert Terrington, dairyman.

Before the railway was made, in 1845, this was a charming retreat, this vale of beauty, to see the garden well stocked with apples, pears, cherries, and strawberries, and other kinds of fruit in its season. Here the poet told his tale of contemplation of blithe domestic comfort encircling this rural wooden cottage:—

* * * * *

"The joyous children told their mirthful task,
And straying from home, the whole surrounding troop
In loose array, could scarce with urgent shouts,
Amid the trees and brambled paths constrain
Her pleasing charge. A tender slip of vine
And ruddy plum already spread their leaves
Around the lattice, o'er an arbour'd seat:
Her chief delight, she taught the twining bean
To wind its scarlet bloom around an arch
Of twisted willows; bade the woodbine creep
With the rose-blossomed briar; while, below,
The saffron nasturtium the rich sides skirted,
Mixed with peas' bright purple. There she'd sit
With mild attention to her needle's toil,
While her fond mind indulged in wandering thoughts
Upon her fears, anxieties, and hopes."—THOS. NOBLE.

Mr. Terrington lived in this cottage many years, and brought up a family of ten children, and led an industrious and contented life. The cottage was removed for the North Kent Railway.

Mr. Brandram made application to the Bench of Magistrates for this division of the county to divert the ancient footpath to a straight line drawn from the arches to the old bridge in Love-lane, offering a slip of land on the east side of the estate for the good of the parish in exchange for the old footpath; and after the notices had been given to all parties concerned and the formalities of law gone through, the County Magistrates consented, for the new footway was a much shorter distance, and more direct to part of Blackheath and Greenwich than the former route.

After the diversion of this thoroughfare from the grounds, in 1808, Mr. Brandram made several improvements, such as removing the old farm buildings from the west side of the mansion, and building new coach houses, stables, and farm buildings next to Love-lane, and fronting the main road. This made the estate more private and compact. To lay out and make the land convertible on the north side of the lake there was a deal of trouble; this land was partly a herb garden, similar to those at Mitcham, in Surrey. Here were grown lavender, mint, and rosemary for distillation, hence the name mentioned in the old title deeds Rosemary Field and Rosemary Cottage (the small one at the top of Love-lane, built in the last century). The other cottage, partly Tudor architecture, was built by Mr. Thos. Brandram, in 1813, and during fifty-eight years and upwards there resided here a venerable and respected lady, Mrs. Frances Burford, who domiciliated long in this healthy locality, until four score and ten years had passed away, when she departed this life in peace, honoured and respected by her neighbours and friends.

These cottages and a slip of meadow running parallel with Love-lane, containing about three-and-a-half acres, were taken on lease from the Earl St. Germans. The Rosemary Field was about eleven-and-a-half acres; Mr. Brandram purchased the freehold of the Duke of Buccleuch and others.

On the north end of this field was the fruit and kitchen garden belonging to Montague House, the house with a round conical tower, covered with ivy, at the corner of Greenwich-park, the residence of the Princess of Wales, in 1808, then a charming object from all parts of Blackheath. This beautiful old residence was ruthlessly pulled down, but Montague-corner retains its title at the present time. There was formerly an open space at the end of this garden wall, next Love-lane, extending to the old five-barred gate that gave entrance to Rosemary Field; also a blind lane between the holly hedge and the garden wall, the exit of which was in Granville-park, at the end of Aberdeenterrace. Here stood a small cottage, close under the hill, occupied by an industrious old couple, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, who, for a living, sold vegetables from their little garden.

The open space just mentioned was a harbour and rendezvous for the gipsies that infested this locality, as was also the ground close to the Pagoda Summer House, erected by the Duke of Buccleuch, Captain General of the Royal Company of Archers, the King's Body Guard of Scotland.

Hothouse grapes were grown here very fine, and the gardens were the

resort of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, to whom, by permission, the poet Noble dedicated the following canto :—

“ Near Fair Villa Rise, there where the hill
Descends abrupt, gay gardens to the sun
Offer their cultured fragrance, and his beams
Court with Hesperian fruits and Indian shrubs :
The cool annanas ; the rich orange grove ;
The rose of Candia, and such myrtle boughs
As might have shaded the Castalian fount,
And crowned Anaceron when he sang of love ;
There the pavilion, with fantastic roof,
Reflects the glistening sunbeams, while around
Young vegetation lifts his verdant brows,
And in a thousand forms obeys the call
Of genial warmth : a beauteous Princess here
Receives the earliest offerings of the spring.”

CANTO II.—THE GIPSIES' CAMP, ELIOT VALE, 1804.

“ Here the wizard gipsies and their bantling crew
Huddle together through the stormy night.
Heedless of ill, their stolen feast enjoy ;
And slumber sound, tho' loud the rattling blast
Beat on their canvas awning, and the elms,
Whose fibrous roots creep thick across their cave,
Creak fearful, as they rock above their heads,
And bend their stems, with deeper foliage spreads.”—
THOS. NOBLE.

After the purchase of Rosemary Field, and the passing of the Enclosure Act, the open space at the east end of Haddo-villas was enclosed, by paying herbage rent of 12s. per annum to the Lord of the Manor of Lewisham, in order to prevent the nuisance and depredations committed by the gipsies and other persons of low character. The site of the lower cottage was formerly a gravel pit, with some old buildings and sheds, the whole of which were pulled down, and the pit filled in and the grounds well laid out by Mr. David Stewart, land surveyor, who planted the shrubberies and formed the beautiful lake. The cottage was designed by Joseph Gwilt, Esq., architect, and built by Mr. William Sidery, senr., 1813. The small cottage was built previous, and first occupied by Mr. A. Doull, afterwards by Mr. and Mrs. Burford, before their removal to the villa that was built in 1813 ; after Mr. Burford left the small cottage, Miss Streatfield occupied it thirty years. Before the one recently erected there was formerly a summer house, on the knoll near the cedar tree, which was taken down to complete the improvements.

After Mr. Thomas Brandram had completed the improvements in his estate, he lived to enjoy the benefit of the outlay for many years after the death of his father, Mr. Samuel Brandram. He was one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Blackheath division of the county of Kent, and filled many important offices with unabated zeal for many years for the public, by which the interest and comfort of all those that resided around him could be promoted for their good. He was senior churchwarden of Lee, and with his colleague, Christopher Godmond, Esq., laid the foundation stone of the beautiful little church, on the 15th September, 1813, which church stood for the short space of twenty-seven years, being pulled down in May, 1841, in consequence of defective foundations, and the want of increased church accommodation for the inhabitants, who were daily increasing in the parish.

Mr. Brandram was appointed treasurer to the Church Committee under the local Act, 1 and 2 Vic., passed 4th July, 1838, for the building of the present church of St. Margaret, the first stone of which was laid by Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., on the 17th July, 1838. The treasurer took an active part in the erection of this church, and gave a donation of £500 to the building fund, also land in addition. He superintended with the utmost zeal and perseverance until the whole work was completed, and consecrated, 11th March, 1841. After having borne the toil and burden of the day, the parishioners at large recorded their sense of his services to the parish for so many years, by the presentation of a silver inkstand, surmounted with a model of St. Margaret's Church. He lived for many years after this event, and exerted himself in full vigour as a neighbour and friend, an office-bearer and Magistrate, in all for upwards of half-a-century. After a gratifying recollection of his past services to this parish, in the evening of his life, at the ripe old age of 78, he departed this life on the 1st October, 1855, and was buried in a vault near the north-west door of St. Margaret's Church, honoured and followed by a troop of friends, and also by the poor and labouring classes of the village.

Mr. Brandram died a bachelor, and left by will the real and personal estate to his nephews and nieces.

During his lifetime, after the death of his father, he kept his promise to his parents honourably, as a filial duty to all the younger members of the family, he made Lee Grove their home, and lived in a hospitable and charitable manner; he employed many labourers during the winter season of the year, and entertained many friends and old acquaintances. After his death the household furniture and effects were sold by public auction, by Mr. Marsh. The freehold mansion and grounds were purchased by private contract, by John Penn, Esq., C.E., of Greenwich, who changed the name to The Cedars, there being a confusion of Lee Groves in Lee. The purchase of this valuable estate of The Cedars by Mr. Penn, whose generous character made him interested in everything which affected the welfare of the parish, was the mainspring in the preservation of the lungs in the neighbourhood of Lee and Blackheath.

Mr. Brandram had matured plans, some years before his death, for letting the whole estate of fifty acres for building villas, etc., and the estate being midway between Blackheath and Lewisham stations, the land was very much in request by the builders of the neighbourhood; a part was let, at the time of sale, and Belmont-grove built, also the two lodges, and a road formed in the rear of the mansion, on the south side of the North Kent Railway.

After Mr. Penn had completed the purchase of The Cedars, in 1856, he laid out a considerable sum in the improvement of the mansion and grounds. The whole was re-modelled and put in proper order and repair. Many additions had been made at various times to the centre of the mansion, and some of the rooms in the oldest part were so small and low pitched, that the whole was new roofed and modernized in its arrangements. The dining room was the only part left in its original form; the old drawing room was converted into an excellent library and study; and a charming new drawing room was added to the east end of the old building, with a beautiful conservatory. A great improvement was made in the reconstruction of the main entrance hall and the corridors; also the domestic offices were made agreeable to all the other modern improvements. The whole work was carried out by Mr. John

Thomas, architect ; Messrs. J. G. Crace and Son, the noted decorators, of Cavendish-square ; and Messrs. Wardle and Baker, builders, of Westminster. After the mansion was completed many alterations and improvements had to be made, in forming the pleasure grounds and shrubberies, under the direction of Mr. R. Milner, the landscape gardener, of Dulwich-wood.

Mr. Penn made application to the Plumstead Board of Works, also to the local Magistrates, to divert the old narrow road in front, that was so dangerous to the increasing traffic from Blackheath to Lewisham, for a road thirty feet wide, in order to preserve the stately elm trees so much admired by Napoleon III., the late Emperor, and Eugenie, the Empress of the French, on the occasion of their visit to The Cedars, in June, 1872, and to the Horticultural Exhibition of Fruit and Flowers. The remark that the Emperor made in reference to these elms on that occasion was to this effect : "We never have seen such fine specimens in the whole of France as we see now of this noble tree. There they are hewn down before they come to one-third of this maturity, and consigned to the timber depôt for sale." This beautiful row of elms formerly extended on the side of the road to Lee-park, until the building of Lee-grove and Lee-terrace commenced. The lane was so very narrow that only one vehicle could travel with safety until the trees were hewn down, to the great dismay of the old inhabitants. This happened about 1826, when there was only the Rectory and The Cedars between Lee-bridge and Park-place. Afterwards buildings were daily increasing, and in order to save the few remaining trees from the woodman's stroke, Mr. F. F. Thorne, the surveyor of highways, prepared an elaborate plan, showing by a very easy curve from east to west, radius about twelve yards in the centre from the old road (which was less than twenty feet wide), how the desired object could be accomplished, and an advantage to the neighbourhood obtained by having a roadway ten feet wider and a footpath open to the southern sun. Due notice of the proposed alteration was posted up at each end of the road, and also given to the Magistrates of this division, assembled in petty sessions at Blackheath, who, after inspecting the plan and viewing the spot gave their unanimous approval ; also the same was obtained from the Plumstead Board of Works, and the plan was referred to the county Magistrates, assembled at quarter sessions at Maidstone, to confirm. After all the formalities of law had been duly observed, the plan was adopted and brought to a successful issue, a contract was entered into by Mr. Goodison, of Lewisham, to complete the whole and keep in order for twelve months, agreeable to the terms of the Highway Act, for the parish authorities to adopt, which was duly carried out to the entire satisfaction of the whole Board, and the road opened by the Rev. G. Lock, the churchwardens and overseers, and the members of the Lee Board of Works, on Saturday, July 8th, 1859. After this the old road was transferred to Mr. Penn, and the main entrance lodge built, also those elegant iron gates of exquisite workmanship, by Mr. Marriott, of London, were erected, supported by stone piers, and paved entrance of Scotch granite, and the coach road formed, with an easy curve to the mansion, which overlooks a beautiful undulating lawn, bounded by shrubberies and dotted with evergreens of the choicest sorts of cypresses and cedar deodorus.

The mansion is scarcely seen until we turn a belt of trees and find it close at hand ; and the approach at once reveals the beauties to be

seen beyond. In the front is a border of the finest collection of rhododendrons, with the clematis, Virginian creeper and jasmine overhanging the windows in rustic form ; and the venerable cedar Lebanon near the conservatory, at the top of the lawn. Here was formerly the old Rectory and its garden, purchased by Mr. Penn, and pulled down in 1866, after having stood there upwards of 230 years. Here, too, is one of the finest specimens of the ilex or evergreen oak that can be seen in this county, supposed to have been planted in 1640 ; great care used to be taken during the severe winters of 1813-14 to preserve it from frost. Mr. Penn had great respect for old associations in trees ; most of the evergreen shrubs in the Rectory garden were taken up with care and replanted in front of the old churchyard wall, with the addition of some choice sorts of rhododendrons and deciduous flowering shrubs, which were transplanted in the month of May, 1866, and forms a lasting relic of the ancient Rectory grounds, also a testimony of respect and regard to the Rev. G. Lock, a faithful minister, who occupied the Rectory sixty-one years, and died there. This lawn, with its undulated borders and clumps of azaleas and rhododendrons and other flowering plants, also the roseary in glorious profusion, all make up a delightful combination with the surroundings. We now look northward over the railway at the head of the dell, towards Blackheath, with the hanging hill and shrubberies on each side of the charming steep slope, beautifully dotted with trees, and a fine plantation of the *pinus Austriaca* and excelsa of the Himalayas, also the fine old holly and whitethorn bushes, which for many years have wafted their delicious fragrance up this charming valley. At the bottom of the slope is the beautiful lake. Well may the poet have composed the following upon such a spot, previous to the railway severing the northern slope from the mansion :—

“ Where Lee Grove shews thy villa fair,
 ’Twas mine the tranquil hour to share,
 The social hour to converse free ;
 To mark the arrangement of thy ground,
 And all the pleasing prospect round,
 Where, while we gazed, new beauties still we found
 There ; as the impending cloud of smoke
 Fled various from the varying gale,
 Full on the view fresh objects broke
 Along the extensive flowery vale,
 Beside the wide and bending stream,
 The setting sun glittering the evening beam,
 Or sought the southern landscape’s bound,
 That swelling mount, so smooth and green,
 Or one with oaken trees encrown’d.”

JOHN SCOTT.

In order to have the whole of the estate freehold, Mr. Penn purchased from the Earl of St. Germans, the only small piece of leasehold he held, about three-and-a-half acres, including the two cottages and shrubbery on the top of Love-lane, Eliot-vale. After this Mr. Penn found it necessary to put a new ring fence round the whole estate, which is upwards of a mile in circumference. The old fence was open palings, which were fast falling into decay, and as buildings were being erected on all sides, it was absolutely necessary to erect a substantial oak fence instead. The former kitchen garden being partly demolished by the North Kent Railway, during Mr. Brandram’s occupation, in 1856 it became necessary to substitute one near the farm buildings. For this purpose Mr. Penn purchased a small meadow on the east side of Love-

lane, in the rear of Grove-place, of Messrs. Walker, an old family, at one time proprietors of the Green Man Assembly Rooms, Black-heath-hill; it was about two-and-a-half acres in extent. Very soon substantial hothouses and vineries were built, pit and framing ground formed, and the whole trenched and planted with fruit trees of various descriptions. When this was completed and the fences erected, undulating banks were formed and shrubberies planted on various parts of the lawn; on the west side a large clump of the choicest collection of rhododendrons, from Waterer's Bagshot Nursery; also English and Irish ivy were planted at the base of the noble elms and cedars.

During the time these alterations and improvements were in progress Mr. Penn was busily engaged in providing marine steam engines for the Government, during the Crimean War, when no less than 121 vessels were fitted with engines by the firm.

Mr. Penn married in the year 1846, Ellen, daughter of William English, Esq., of Enfield, and had issue four sons and two daughters. During the time of Mr. Penn's engagements and close application to business, more especially during the Crimean War, the care of his family was attended to by Mrs. Penn, who provided everything necessary for their education and amusement in a very liberal manner, with a full establishment of servants to attend to their personal comfort.

The late Mr. Penn was naturally endowed with an ability to grasp the technicalities of the most intricate machinery; and his world-wide reputation as a skilful engineer needs no addition of ours. From his youth he devoted himself and his talents to his Queen and country, and to the benefit of mankind. He retired from business in 1875, and passed his latter days contributing to the preservation and happiness of those around him, by the continued exertion of his faculties until his death, 23rd September, 1878, aged 72 years. He was buried on the Saturday following, in a vault by the side of his father, in the new churchyard of St. Margaret's, Lee, and was followed by 1000 of the workmen employed, also all the servants and workmen on the estate at Lee, and by about 100 gentlemen, amongst whom were several engineers of repute, and many personal friends who Mr. Penn had entertained for many years past as old associates, in a hospitable manner, at The Cedars.

This hospitality to friends and open-handed liberality to the poor is continued by Mrs. Penn and the whole family; and any good work in the parish and neighbourhood is sure to find in them warm supporters, both in giving their time and substance.

In 1872, the two elder sons, Mr. John Penn and Mr. William Penn, were taken into partnership, and are now the proprietors of the Works at Greenwich and Deptford, where they employ about 2000 hands.

Mr. F. Penn and Mr. A. Penn, the younger sons, have both made their mark in the cricketing world; the former particularly as a batsman, the latter as a bowler. Both are members of the celebrated Marylebone Cricket Club, and also of the Kent County Club. Mr. F. Penn was a member of the representative team in the match England *v.* Australians, in 1880.

A very conspicuous object from the eastern part of Lee is Shooter's-hill, with Severndroog Castle at the summit, which was a favourite resort for families about half a century ago, at which time it was well taken

care of by the lodge keeper, under its liberal owner, John Blades, Esq., late Sheriff of London, who purchased it about the year 1816, it being a very conspicuous object seven miles eastward of his beautiful mansion, Brockwell Hall, built on the delightful eminence between Brixton and Dulwich, Surrey.

“This far-seen monumental tower,
Records the achievements of the brave ;
And Angria's subjugated power,
Who plundered on the eastern wave.”

BLOOMFIELD.

“A Narrative of the Capture. A.D. 1755, of Severndroog, the Pirate's Stronghold, on the Mallabar Coast, by Commodore James, the Welsh Plowboy.”

This tower has three floors, an entrance vestibule, and a gallery, that was originally painted with scenes from the Investment of Severndroog. In the vestibule were arranged trophies of arms, etc., taken from the robbers' castle by Commodore James who was placed in command. The pirates, known as Angria's Band, had been for fifty years the terror and scourge of the Mallabar coast, in the East Indies, but this dashing pirate, Angria, was overmatched by our gallant British tars, who took possession of the citadel, and hoisted the British flag on its towers, 2nd April, 1755.

Time has swept away the relics of the past, except the following inscription over the doorway, on a broad stone tablet, placed there by his widow, Lady James :—

“This building was erected in the year 1784, by the representative of the late Sir William James, Bart., to commemorate that gallant officer's achievements in the East Indies, during his command of the Company's Marine Forces in those seas : and in a particular manner to record the conquest of the Castle of Severndroog, on the coast of Mallabar; which fell to his superior valour and able conduct, on the 2nd day of April, 1755.”

Shooter's-hill Castle was, from its elevated situation, in the first quarter of the present century, a conspicuous object from the village of Lee ; before the trees had grown so lofty the three upper floor windows often appeared to be beautifully illuminated by the setting sun from the west.

About a quarter of a mile westward is the Herbert Hospital, built for the accommodation of the invalid soldiers from Woolwich ; and on the west side of the Eltham-road is the Greenwich Cemetery, with its chapels, erected on a beautiful knoll overlooking the Crystal Palace, Dulwich, Highgate, and Hampstead hills. This land, comprising 200 acres, was purchased, in the year 1733, by Sir Gregory Page, Bart., of Wricklemarsh House, being the Manor of East Horne, formerly held by the Roper family for several centuries.

Sir Gregory Page pulled down the old mansion of Well Hall, in Eltham Bottom, and built a very handsome farm house on the site, which, with the demesnes belonging to it, at the death of Sir Gregory, in 1775, came into the possession of his great-nephew, Sir Gregory Page Turner, Bart., of Oxfordshire. This farm was let, in the year 1818, to Major Nichols, at about £1 per acre rent. The farm house was let for many years to Mr. Arnold, watchmaker to his Majesty George III., and who made a chronometer so small as to be worn in a ring on his Majesty's finger. He built those beautiful little additions on each side

of the main front of the hall for his workshops, in order to have some of his workmen near at hand. This mansion has had many occupiers within the past half-century ; E. Langley, Esq., is the present tenant.

Wricklemarsh House stood near the site of Blackheath-park Church, on the west side. The round pond now exists ; the overflow from which runs on the side of the North Kent Railway, and under the road near the Blackheath Station, on the down side, from thence through the grounds of The Cedars, emptying itself into the lake.

Mr. W. Morris, who rented the whole of the meadows of Wricklemarsh, in the liberty of Kidbrooke, was a large owner of milch cows and farming stock ; the rich grazing land so near London was of great advantage to the milk trade. This land, at the latter part of the sixteenth century, belonged to Sir John Morden, Bart., the founder of Morden College, who died in 1708, and left his mansion house of Wricklemarsh, with its appurtenances, and many acres of land adjoining, of the yearly value of £100, to his wife, Dame Susan Morden, by will, for life.

After Lady Morden's death it was sold, in 1721, to Sir Gregory Page, Bart., of Greenwich, who erected here a noble and magnificent edifice of stone, one of the finest seats in England belonging to a private gentleman, and much admired for its fine situation and excellent air. The park was upwards of a mile in length, from north to south, and about five furlongs in width ; in the time of Sir Gregory it was kept in excellent order, that in neither the walks nor plantations scarcely a weed was suffered to grow. This magnificent edifice, at the death of Sir Gregory, in 1775, came into the possession of his great-nephew, Sir Gregory Page Turner, who, in 1781, obtained an Act of Parliament for the sale of his uncle's estate, which took place in 1783. This mansion, Blackheath-park, and inclosures adjoining, were sold to John Cator, Esq., of Beckenham, for £22,550 ; soon after it was sold out in lots for the materials, also the park was disparted, and several parts of it let to different persons for building purposes. The Paragon and those capital buildings called South-row are built on part of the estate. There was only a part of one of the walls of the east wing and doorway of the grand mansion left standing in the early part of the present century.

Morden College is so named from its founder, Sir John Morden, of the before-mentioned Wricklemarsh Mansion, a merchant trading to Turkey, who brought home a large fortune from Aleppo. Several years before his death, taking pattern of the Bishop of Rochester's College, at Bromley, he erected this building in the form of a college, for the support of poor, honest decayed merchants, for whose relief, among all the charitable foundations in London for distressed people, not one had been erected before ; and this college, for its ample endowment, is one of the most comfortable retreats for the aged and unfortunate that charity affords in this kingdom. The number of resident pensioners was fixed at thirty, who were to be upwards of fifty years of age, and either bachelors or widowers. The allowance to each was £2 per month, together with coals, candles, washing, and medicines, etc. There is a treasurer and chaplain.

The management of the college is vested in seven Turkish merchants, and in case of failure of that body, they are to be chosen out of the East India Company. The benefactions which have been made to the college since its endowment, amount to upwards of £13,000 per annum. The college consists of a large brick building, having an in-

ward square, and a chapel. The founder, agreeable to his will, was buried in a vault within this chapel, under the altar.

This valuable estate of Wricklemarsh is situated in the several parishes of Greenwich, Charlton, Eltham, Lee, and the liberty of Kidbrook. Sir Gregory Page Turner still has a part of the estate in the various parishes before named; Lee-park, around Christ Church to the High-road, is his property. Here, within this century, stood some of the handsomest oak and elm trees grown in any part of the county. Old Lee-park was the Crown land adjoining Burnt-ash-lane and Horn-park. The boundary of Lee parish goes through the centre passage of Horn-park House on the hill. The two parks formerly contained 669 acres; viz.: Horn-park 333 acres, and Lee-park 336 acres. There was also Middle-park and Great-park. These four parks, with the demesne lands formerly attached to the Royal Palace at Eltham, amounted to 1652 acres; and the total value at the death of King Charles I., in 1648, was £860 19s. 2d., and improvements £306 6s. 7d. After this survey, the Manor, with its appurtenances, was disparked and let to different persons in farms.

The large moat round the Palace, which is for the most part dry and covered with verdure, has two stone bridges over it; the house on the left side of the entrance has been in the occupation of the late Richard Mills, Esq., formerly of the Six Clerks' Office. The grounds and shrubberies were laid out round and in the moat, about 1825, by a landscape gardener, at the expense of the above gentleman, who lived to enjoy the pleasure of the improvements for upwards of fifty years, he dying in 1880, at a very advanced age.

Adjoining Lee parish, on the east side of Marvel's-lane, about one mile from Burnt-ash-hill, and one mile south-westward from Eltham Church, is the hamlet of Mottingham, which bounds Lee parish. This place lies on the road to Chislehurst; it was formerly called Modig-Ham. About the centre of the hamlet, on the west side of the road, is Fairy Hall, in the last century the residence of Earl Bathurst, Lord High Chancellor of England, who being sworn of the Privy Council, was created Baron Apsley, on whose death, in 1794, it descended to his son Henry, Earl Bathurst.

In Phillpot's "Survey of Kent," published in 1659, is an account of a very curious and surprising circumstance that happened at Mottingham, on August 4th, 1583: In a field belonging to Sir Percival Hart Dyke, one day, early in the morning, the ground began to sink so much that three large elm trees were suddenly swallowed up in the pit, the tops of them falling downwards into the hole, and before ten o'clock they were completely covered, the concave being immediately filled with water. The compass of this hole was about eighty yards, and so deep that a sounding line of fifty fathoms but just reached the bottom. At about ten yards distant from this hole, another piece of ground sunk in like manner, near the highway, and so near to a dwelling house as to greatly alarm its inhabitants. The hollows thus made can be seen at the present time, in the field opposite Fairy Hall. The field is now the property of the Shroeter family.

Fairy Hall was occupied for many years by W. Smith, Esq., J.P.; it is now the property of Mrs. Hartley, by whom the new mansion was built in 1856. In front of the house is a neat lawn, which contains fourteen acres of land, extending to the road.

Mottingham Place, an ancient mansion at the entrance to the village,

on the west side of the road, was built by the Stoddard family, in 1560, and was sold by the Court of Chancery, about the year 1795, to Mr. Dyneley, who, at that time, almost rebuilt the house in a handsome style. After a few years, it became the property of John Auldjo, Esq., an eminent London merchant, and now belongs to the Shroeter family, who have expended a large sum in making improvements. Another seat, which lies a small distance from the last mentioned, was in the possession of Mr. Joseph Carter, and the grounds on the west of this gentleman's seat bounds Water-lane, Lee, on the east side, leading to Claypit Farm. At this farm, about the year 1816, clay was dug to a very great extent, by Messrs. Giles and Harris, for making pottery and moulds for loaf sugar, at Greenwich Kilns; hence the name of Clay Pits, Marvel's-lane. The farm contained 73 acres, and was the property of Mr. James Cooper, let to W. Pershouse, of Greenwich, in the year 1836. Some meadows near here, also College Farm, containing about sixty-three acres, are the property of the Mercers' Company.

At the south end of Marvel's-lane, and facing the Bromley-road, is Grove Farm, now called Grove-park, which was formerly the property of Thomas Waller, Esq., wine merchant, of the city of London. It was sold by the executors of that family to Mr. John Pound, for building purposes. It contained about sixty-eight acres of meadow and arable land, the frontage of which, on the Bromley-road, has been nearly all covered within the last few years with charming villas, which are near to the Grove-park Railway Station.

Here is a new road made, running to the extreme end of Lee parish, adjoining the property of the late Sir Samuel Scott, the eminent banker, of Cavendish-square, London, and Sundridge-park, Bromley. About fifty acres of this estate is in the parish of Lee, and forms the southern boundary. Much of this land was formerly wood, known as Riddon's Wood, and was well stocked with game, and famous, in hot weather, for snakes, lizards, and adders.

From here we intend following the boundary of the parish for the greater part of the way round, treating of the changes on the adjacent properties. This will form the commencement of another chapter.





CHAPTER III.

THE Parish Boundaries—Leafy Oak—Manor Market Gardens and Farm—Hokum Pokum—Robberies—Lee Bridge and Houses near—Belmont House—Hally's old Nursery—Proprietary School—Gravel Pits—Top of Lee Park—Lee Road—Kidbrooke—Eltham new Road—New Bridge, Lee Green—Windmill—Harrow Inn—Floods—Drowning of Mr. Green and horse—Tiger's Head Inn—Soldiers through Lee, 1815—Objectionable Excursionists, and Low Tone of Society—Lee Races—Building Improvements, High-road and Burnt Ash-lane—Terrier of Freehold Land—Glebe Rents and Tithes—Law of Gavelkind—Residents in 1814—First Modern Houses.

AFTER crossing the Bromley-road, we again enter the Northbrook estate by Leafy Oak Meadows. On the upper hedge of these meadows stood a tall round-top oak tree, a land mark from Lee Church, it being the extreme end of the west side of the parish. In these meadows plovers annually resort and deposit their eggs in holes on the surface of the ground. We here have a fine view of the Shroefields Farm, containing 175 acres, and Manor of Lee, from a high commanding spot extending to a field called Ivory Down, towards the Lee Cemetery.

When perambulating the parish bounds, we take the course of a little rivulet that runs from thence to Manor-lane, and joins the Quaggy at Manor Farm. This farm, with Manor Cottage, was let on lease for twenty-one years, from 1816, to Mr. Robert Elias Brown, late gardener to Lord Braybrooke, of Audley End House, Saffron Walden, Essex; who, at great expense and labour, converted the land for market gardening, and brought it into a high state of cultivation, and planted fifty acres of fruit trees of all descriptions. These gardens, during the summer season, afforded employment for a great number of labourers of Lee, Greenwich, and other places. There were both men and women, the latter mostly from Shropshire and North Wales, and as they lived at a cheap rate, they generally returned home much richer than they left it. These gardens were noted for producing fine fruit, water-cresses, and early Battersea cabbages. There were three acres of water-cress beds next to the Quaggy. On the expiration of the lease, in 1837, the succeeding tenant grubbed up the whole of the fine plantations, and converted the land into its former state for farming purposes. This tenant, Mr. Thomas Postans, formerly had this farm, in 1816, and having retired from the stewardship of the officers' mess at St. James's Palace, was afterwards engaged as steward of the Manor estate, by Sir Thomas Baring, who granted him a lease of Manor Farm, and he and his family resided in Manor Cottage for many years. Mr. Postans was elected Churchwarden of the old church with Mr. William Sidery, in the year 1837, and attended Sir Thomas Baring at the laying of the foundation-stone of the present St. Margaret's Church. The names of the Churchwardens were cast on the tenor of the small peal of three bells hung in the church tower. After a residence of upwards of fifty years in this parish, his declining health caused him to let the farm to

Mr. Mark Cordwell, in the year 1845, father of the present tenant, who, together, by industry and perseverance, have brought it into a high state of cultivation. The farm now contains 104 acres.

Weardale-road is the north-west boundary of Earl Northbrook's property. At the entrance of this road, when a meadow, there was a step-stile; the place was commonly called Hokum Pokum, in consequence of the frequent robberies committed in its vicinity. As late as 1850, the thieves laid in wait for the carriage of Messrs. Martin, bankers, of Lombard-street, who were on the journey to their mansion at Chislehurst; they were plundered of a large leather box, which was cut from the roof of the carriage, but fortunately the policeman on duty was close at hand at the time, and with assistance the thieves were taken in a hired cab with the booty. Near this spot was a small meadow rented by Mr. William Sidery for many years. The owner, Mr. Mollineux, sold the freehold for building purposes, and Mr. Sidery purchased a part next his own residence, and had the hedge next the High-road grubbed up. In so doing he found in the bank some implements, such as pistols, dark lanterns, jemmies, etc., that had been hidden there by robbers. In the early part of the morning, on the 20th May, 1813, near this spot, Mr. John Hearnden, the parish clerk and constable, was nearly killed by a notorious sheep stealer, who struck him on the head with an iron instrument, and left him insensible for some considerable time. Lee, at this period, was so rural as to be unsafe to be about after dusk; indeed, gentlemen who had to travel to and from London were unsafe without firearms, after they had passed the Bricklayers' Arms, Old Kent-road. The medical gentlemen, too, on their journeys from Greenwich to Lee, when attending their patients, never went without arming themselves with a brace of pistols.

In the year 1816, Dr. Brown of Lewisham, who had an extensive practice, was returning from the Kent Waterworks, Mill-lane, Deptford, when he was knocked down by a footpad, and had a desperate struggle to prevent being drowned in the Ravensbourne.

We now proceed on our west boundary, between Lewisham and Lee, following the Quaggy, in the rear of Lee-place. Lee-place was the first row of modern houses built in the parish, about 1812, by Messrs. John and Henry Lee of Loampit-hill, Lewisham, the well-known brick-makers and lime-burners. The houses nearer Lee-bridge were built some years previously, by Messrs. Skinner and Barff, of Lee-bridge. Those next to College-park-bridge, with the Sultan beershop, were formerly the property of the Lord of the Manor, but Lord Sondes, in the last century, let the quit-rents fall in arrear, so others have kept possession ever since. Those at the extreme corner are the property of an old Lee family of the name of Chapman; the builder was a journeyman bricklayer, who erected them in his overtime. Mr. Bonor, the gentleman afterwards murdered at Chislehurst, seeing that the building of these houses was a long time in hand, inquired the reason, and was informed that the owner was too poor to finish them, upon which he sent Chapman 10,000 bricks, as a present, to finish the buildings.

Lee Bridge was built in 1792 by the County magistrates; it is the end of the High-road, Lee. The boundary continues in the centre of the stream as far as St. Stephen's Church, then longitudinally to the rear of the grounds of Belmont House, which belongs to the Mercers' Company. Here, formerly, was a beautiful mount in a meadow of about ten acres, with a most enchanting prospect, and commanding a view of

St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, Highgate and Hampstead hills; and, on the south-west, the Sydenham and Norwood hills; and also the far-seen Knockholt Beeches. This was one of the most picturesque parts at the west end of the parish; hill and dale were covered with broom and furze, also conies played about the sand hills and burrows. Belmont House now stands on this mount; it was built by George Ledgewell Taylor, Esq., about 1830, when he was the Government Surveyor of His Majesty's Dockyards; it is now occupied by John Wainwright, Esq.

We now proceed eastwards into the fir plantation of The Cedars, and up the centre of the lake, in a boat, to Love-lane, from thence through the arch of the old ditch, under Love-lane, in the rear of the Earl of St. Germans' land, then on to the left through the small meadow, following the old ditch to the rear of Miss Collins's property, to the side of the shop next the cab entrance at the Blackheath Railway Station, then to the centre of the road in front of Mr. Burnside's shop, on past the Railway Tavern. Here, before the North Kent Railway Station was built, was Hally's Nursery, where a fine collection of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs were grown. Mr. Hally cultivated camellias with great success, for many years, in the garden of Wrickle-marsh House. Near here was also a fine spring of excellent water, and public baths.

A little further on is the old Proprietary School, built on the site of an old gravel pit. The gravel dug here, when mixed with one-third of Croydon gravel, could be brought to a solid and even surface, and very durable. This pit was particularly central and advantageous to the Lee surveyor of highways for the repair of the parish roads and footpaths.

We now come to Lee Park, on the top of Cresswell-hill; before Park-place was built, about 1809, this was one of the most delightful prospects over a part of Lee. We had a full view of Dacre House and all the venerable mansions in the Old-road, including Boone's estate, with the rookeries and beautiful island, and fine piece of water and swans. Lee-park was leased to Lady Dacre, and during her lifetime was kept in excellent order. About the centre of the upper part, in front of Christ Church, there was an excavation of about a quarter of an acre of ground, of a circular shape, where her ladyship used to have buried her favourite horses and cows; and many bones were dug up in making the foundations for the houses now built there, by the late Mr. W. G. Pinhey.

Early in the last century, Madam Lewin, residing in Lee House, Old-road, was the owner of this park, and conveyed water from a reservoir now in existence, fed from a beautiful spring, through leaden pipes welded hog-main fashion; this was before the process of casting pipes was adopted. The right of relaying and breaking up the ground for that purpose is reserved up to the present time; the well is in the road-way, near Mr. Saville's nursery, and the reservoir is inside the corner of Mr. Tuffin's nursery.

We pass on from Cresswell-hill down Lee-road to Priory-lane, leaving the boundary of Charlton parish on the left.

There the Liberty of Kidbrook, usually so called, adjoins Charlton, on the south side of the London-road. It was anciently written Chite-broc, and was once a parish of itself, though now esteemed as an appendage to that of Charlton, having one overseer of the poor appointed for it. The Church of Kidbrook was called, in the "Textus

Roffensis," the Chapel of Chitebroc, and valued at 100 shillings; the patronage of it was, from the earliest times, annexed to the Manor. The present lord of the Manor is Lord Eliot. The ancient church has been entirely demolished for many years, for the vicarage, being undowered, fell into neglect and decay, and the inhabitants were unable to repair it. Hasted, in his "History of Kent," says he could find an account of only two Vicars of this place, which was in 1348. The inhabitants for many years resorted to Charlton, Lee, and Blackheath-park churches; but on the 3rd July, 1867, St. James's Church, Kidbrook Park-road, was consecrated.

Within the past half-century, Kidbrook has become a fashionable suburb, and is daily improving in elegant villas and mansions, built for promoting the health and comforts of life for those who seek a residence on the south side of the Thames and Blackheath. It is within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Board, and sends two members to the Plumstead Board of Works; also guardians to the Woolwich Union.

The boundary-posts of Kidbrook stood, one in the Lee-road, at the end of the overflow arch of the Long-pond in Sir Gregory Page's estate, and the other in the centre of the road and brook, Lee Green, before the Tiger's Head bridge was built, in the year 1866.

The footpath of the Kidbrook side of Lee-road was formerly twelve feet wide, four feet high, and partly covered with brambles and furze; but when the new road was made from the Tiger's Head to Eltham Green, by Horton Ledger, surveyor to the New Cross Trust, in the year 1829, he lowered the path for the use of the materials to fill up the old road. Lee-park had only two houses built on the side of Lee-road at this date, and furze and yellow broom grew wild on the roadside.

Before the present wide and substantial bridge was erected, by the Plumstead Board of Works, there was only a foot bridge on the west side, and at the time of sudden rains the brook was swollen so much as to rise nine feet in height, making it dangerous and impassable where it crossed the road. At such times the Eltham omnibus and all other vehicles had to traverse the High-road through Lee-park to the Railway Station. Before Wall's-place and Eastbourne and Gordon Terraces were built, Lee Green was a large open space of about two acres, part in Eltham and Kidbrook. Large parties of city gentlemen, during the summer season, much frequented this place for healthful recreation, about half a century ago.

The Tiger's Head inn was famous for its bowling green, and for providing entertainment for companies from London, after the cricket matches on the green. On the east side there was a very substantial windmill, built by Mr. Cassendick, of Lewisham, and kept by Mr. Loat, which was a great boon to the poor around that farming neighbourhood, for grinding their leasing corn. A very curious circumstance happened to this mill, about November, 1832—a very destructive wind blew the mill out of The Harrow meadow over the hedge into the adjoining field! It was afterwards erected at Lee Green. The one that was pulled down to make room for the houses now built on the front road, was built in the place of this one. The old footpath here was about ten feet wide and five feet above the road, with a wide bank covered with bramble and furze, and sloping towards the old road, which was five feet below the present one, from Lee Green to Eltham bridge; it was also very narrow. At the end of the footpath stood The Harrow public house, with large trees in front and a horse trough. This house was a notorious

rendezvous for smugglers in the early part of the present century, and the Magistrates eventually refused to renew the license, in order to stop the nefarious traffic in contraband spirits, as an immense deal of that sort of trading was carried on in the rural bye roads and ways in former years. The house was converted into three labourers' cottages, which were very serviceable to the adjoining farms.

This road was always subject to annual floods, at the break up of the old-fashioned winters ; after the general thaw of ice and snow the banks of the Quaggy at Eltham-bridge overflowed into the old road, and used to rise to the height of four feet, and re-entered the Quaggy near the Tiger's Head inn, at Lee Green, before the present bridge was built. Here, about eight o'clock, on Christmas Eve, 1830, the water rose in height to seven feet, flowing with great violence across the Lee-road ; and a Mr. Green, farmer, of Bromley, attempted to ford the stream with his horse and chaise, although forewarned of the danger ; the force of water carried the whole under the old bridge, and man and horse were drowned. Many other persons have had very narrow escapes at this spot.

The present Tiger's Head inn was built by one Roger Roberts, on a lease of ninety years, from 1766, granted by Lord Sondes. Formerly the access to the front entrance was by four stone steps to the basement floor, in order to avoid the inundations. There was then a large pond, where Crown-terrace is now built, that received the storm water from Burnt-ash-lane. It was called the Horse-pond, and was used for watering horses and the numerous droves of Welsh cattle that travelled on these roads.

After the first thaw in the severe winter of 1814, January 26th, the water overflowed the banks of the Quaggy so much as to cover the lower half of Lee-park, and a second and more severe frost set in on January 29th, and froze over the whole surface. The ice and snow were two feet deep, and people walked on it with ease ; it was so thick and congealed that it did not wholly disappear until the end of June. Vegetation was eaten up by the birds, and some thousands of larks, which came in large flocks from Holland, were killed by the frost. After the general break up of this winter, many persons were found frozen to death, and others frost-bitten. Bread was eighteen-pence per 4lb. loaf, and many poor families were assisted in order to keep them from starvation.

In the year following, the scene in Lee was much altered, as the the cavalry regiments of the Horse Guards and Hussars, and also regiments of Foot, for three weeks, were on the march through this village, *en route* to Waterloo. The roads were almost impassable day and night, and the whole country seemed to be a complete moving arsenal. It was very imposing to see the assembled soldiers with transports of arms of war. The space in front of the Tiger's Head, and the Green, were very commodious for the transfer of baggage from the waggons of the farmers from the other side of London to those of the farmers in this neighbourhood, which were pressed for that purpose, to convey them fifteen miles farther on the journey to Dover.

In consequence of the heavy and numerous transports of troops, baggage, ammunition, and material, measures were rendered necessary to divide the marching army into two divisions, from London, to prevent disorder, one half going through Deptford and Blackheath, the other through Lewisham and Lee, to Dover. The general aspect of the

soldiers on the march was excellent ; many regiments were in new uniforms, and all had a thoroughly martial appearance. But on their return they presented a sad and distressing spectacle, as the remnant of this victorious and gallant army passed through our little village on their way home. Some were grievously wounded ; some had lost a leg, an arm, or an eye. The accoutrements and clothing told a terrible tale ; and all the brave men looked weak and worn, as if they had been opposed to a fierce enemy before quitting the battle-field of Waterloo, 18th June, 1815. In the year following, Lee-green had the honour of receiving Marshal von Blucher, on his journey to London, to join the allied Sovereigns on their visit to this country.

The large open space in front of the Tiger's Head was often the scene of processions and meetings. In the early part of the present century, a deal of drinking and licentiousness was carried on at the various roadside inns near London, especially if there were any open spaces near. The law was often evaded, or not put in force, and when war time, the Government was much in want of an increased revenue, which was easiest obtained by the greater sale of excisable liquors. The inns around London did an enormous amount of business, especially on Sundays, as at that time they kept open all day.

The Tiger's Head, being the first stage out of London, was a favourite resort and house of call. Cribb, John Gully, and Molyneux, the noted pugilists, used to meet here before they were trained at the Porcupine Inn, Mottingham. These assemblies were attended with great rudeness, and often on Sundays, men could be seen stripped to the waist, and fighting. The file of chaise carts, on the side of the road, mostly covered the eighth of a mile ; and all the persons, both male and female, being gaily dressed, the whole country appeared to be keeping holiday. Everybody, at this period, travelled by road, as there were neither railway nor steamboat.

On the Plough-green (now Shepherd's-place), Lewisham, annually on St. Thomas's Day, there were held the cruel sports of bull-baiting and cock-fighting. At this time, the Armoury Mills, at Lewisham, were in full work for the Government ; and the men, being for the most part, a low-bred set of fellows from Birmingham, committed many depredations around the neighbourhood. Gardens were plundered, preserved ponds and the rivers were poached. After the peace was concluded, there being no further necessity for these works, the property was sold and converted into the silk mills, now on the Ravensbourne.

Lee races, held annually in Lee-park, were a great nuisance to the neighbourhood, attended as they were by so many of the lowest classes from London, Deptford, Greenwich, etc., such as pickpockets and welsers. There were many accidents at these races, both to man and horse ; one year a Greenwich pensioner was killed on the course, near the grand stand, at the back of the Tiger's Head garden, and this event put an end to them being again held there. They were afterwards held in The Harrow meadows, Eltham-road, before the present substantial residences were built there.

We cannot be too thankful that the long list of these nuisances is now abolished, and that we live in more refined times.

Formerly the old-fashioned Eltham coach, with its commodious dickey behind, driven by Captain Harvey, of Middle Park, a one-arm gentleman and Waterloo veteran, and the Dartford and Orpington coaches, passed through Lee, and were a great accommodation.

The hours of pleasure and business, and the modes of taking the one, and conducting the other, are very much altered from what they were fifty years ago. Then gentlemen took their pleasure and business more easily together; and tradesmen had regular customers to attend daily, and when honest and well conducted, their business was an heirloom to their families.

Until 1825 there was but one small chandler's shop in Lee. In that year some modern shops were erected at Lee-green, from where the police station is now built to the lane, which was a piece of waste ground. The open ditch by the side of this ground was arched over before the buildings were commenced. At this time, too, the road was much improved, and a new bridge built in the High-road; the old wooden houses taken down, and Camden-place built on the site.

On the north side of the road stood an old ruinous house, formerly occupied by Mr. William Voller, also some stabling and an old cottage: these were sold by auction and pulled down, and the present cottages erected.

At the expiration of the leases of the farming land east and west of Burnt-ash-lane, houses were built there with astonishing rapidity, and are at the present time daily increasing up the whole length of road to Grove-park station on the Bromley-road.

In the year 1841, a Terrier of all the freehold land in the parish of Lee, was made by Mr. Richard Martyr, land surveyor, of Greenwich, for the Tithe Commissioners, the expense of making same being charged to the freeholders. It was as follows:—

	A.	R.	P.
Baring, Sir Thomas, Bart.; Manor-house and gardens, Manor-farm, Burnt Ash-farm, Shroefields and Bankers manors	510	0	0
Brandram, Thomas; Lee-grove (now The Cedars)... ..	36	2	2
Crown lands: Horn-park, old Lee-park-farm, Lee-green ...	161	1	37
Cooper, James; Claypit-farm, Marvel's-lane, Burnt-ash ...	72	3	26
Collins, Miss; Lee-terrace, Lawn-terrace, Hally's-nursery, old Proprietary-school	13	1	21
Elmly, or Emly, Mrs.; house and grounds, now in the occu- pation of Leonard Bidwell, Esq.... ..	2	2	7
Earl St. Germans; Belmont-hill, Marischal-road, thence to Lee-bridge, Granville-terrace, St. Stephen's-terrace, to the Church	16	1	39
Farncomb, and Others; Boone-street, Dacre-street, Church- street, all the shops abutting these streets, north of the High-road, purchased at sale of Boone's estate, 1824 ...	12	0	0
Godmond, Christopher; Thatched-house and next, High- road	4	3	10
Larking, J. Wingfield; Lee-lodge (now The Firs), Old-road, from Manor-lane to Manor-park	11	1	8
Merchant Taylors' Company; land, new Almshouses, Bel- mont-park	24	2	39
Mercers' Company; Belmont-house, College-farm, and land in Marvel's-lane	71	0	12
Morris, William; cottages, Crab-croft, Marvel's-lane ...	3	1	13
Molyneux, William; land and cottages (now Rose of Lee, and Lee-chapel)	1	2	35
	3—2		

TERRIER OF FREEHOLD LAND—*continued.*

A. R. P.

Page-Turner, Sir Gregory, from Lee-park-lodge (Mr. Burton's) to the bridge, Lee-road, thence north-east of High-road, Turner-road, and all Lee-park	47	2	3
Powis, Richard ; land near Mottingham and Marvel's-lane	9	1	35
Scott, Sir Samuel, Bart. ; land near Bromley	50	0	8
Shuter, Thomas Allen ; Dacre-house, Royal-oak-place, Boones-road, Lansdown-road, and Tilling's-mews	7	1	21
Smith, Capt. Matthew ; mansion and land in front of Old-road (Pentland-house), also field (now Holy Trinity-church, Belgrave-villas, etc.)	6	2	23
St. Quinten, — ; land, Dacre-park to Lee-ter. (now built on)	12	2	0
Stuart, W. F. ; Lee-house, Old-road, and grounds	8	1	4
Waller, Thomas ; Grove-farm and cottages, Marvel's- and Bromley-lanes	68	1	23
Walker, Charles ; Grove-place (now Wyberton-house, Lee-terrace, and garden in rear)	2	3	22
Young, J. Halliburton ; mansion and grounds, Old-road	4	1	14
Land in churchyards ; old, 2r. 23p. ; new, 1a. 2r. 25p.	2	0	38
The Glebe ; the rectory-house and grounds, part Lee-terrace, and land in Bromley-lane	19	0	11

The following is a list of smaller freeholds in various parts of Lee :—

Barff, Harriet ; houses in Albion-place, High-road	0	1	17
Barber, Thomas ; three houses Brandram-road and Dacre-st.	0	0	24
Blackshaw, James ; houses south side of Dacre-street	0	0	15
Brangwin, Castle ; houses east of Lee-place	0	0	33
Cranfield, — ; houses in Lee-place, High-road	0	3	32
Chapman, James ; small tenements, Lee-bridge	0	0	11
Driver, Edward ; houses and shops, James's-place, High-rd.	0	1	35
Durham, Jacob ; Woodman-inn, and shops, High-road	0	1	35
Foard, Mary ; part of Albion-place	0	1	3
Forbes, William ; houses Zetland-place and adjoining	0	0	14
Hart, F. H. ; seven houses Boones-street (the owner named this street)	0	0	36
Jackson, James ; Sultan-beershop, and property adjoining...	0	0	13
Lee, William and Charles ; houses Lee-place, High-road	0	1	4
Morley, Henry ; houses " " " " " " " " " " " "	0	1	15
Millard, John ; bakery and houses, north corner Boones-st.	0	0	32
Parker, T. W. ; White Horse-inn and shops adjoining	0	0	21
Trustees of National-schools, Church-street	0	1	23
Toswell, Charles ; Caroline-place, and land adjoining (now built on)	0	1	29

There have been many sales and changes of the freeholds and leaseholds since the aforesaid terrier was made. The map and apportionment of the rent charge, in lieu of tithes, for the parish of Lee, amounting to £409, was signed and sealed by the Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales, February, 1841 ; the Rev. George Lock, M.A., was then Rector.

It has been generally thought that the living and Rectory, with all its rights, is a very productive one, from the supposition that a large emolument is realised from the glebe rents and tithes ; but such is not correct. The Rev. G. Lock informed the author many years ago, that

the expense of collecting tithes and ground rents on the glebe amounted to £25 per cent., and, after all rates and taxes were paid, he had to encroach on his own private purse to live and subscribe to the charities of the neighbourhood.

Since that period the parish has been included in one of the districts of the Metropolitan Board and Metropolitan Poor Fund, so that the rates and taxes amount to a much larger sum than formerly.

The land belonging to the Lee Manor being entailed, Earl Northbrook has no power to sell any of the freehold, except by covenant under the trustees, to add the same in value to his other estate in Hampshire. The Crown lands are under the management of the Commissioners of the Woods and Forests; College Farm, and other lands, in trust of the Mercers' Company; trustees of Belmont-park, the Merchant Taylors' Company.

The law of gavelkind is a peculiar tenure or custom belonging to lands in the county of Kent, whereby the lands of the father, at his death, are equally divided among all his sons; or the land of a brother among all his brethren, if he have no issue of his own, unless it has been dis-gavelled by particular statutes. This was the tenure of all lands in England before the Conquest, in 1066. But after the Norman Conquest, when knights' service was introduced, the descent was restrained to the eldest son for preservation of the tenure, except in Kent; and the reason recorded is, that the Kentish men surrounded William the Conqueror with a moving wood of green boughs, near the river Medway, and obtained a confirmation of their ancient rights of Saxon liberty; hence the origin of the Men of Kent and the Kentish Men.

" THE MEN OF KENT.

" When Counties round, with fear profound,
To mend their sad condition,
Their lands to save, base homage gave,—
Bold Kent made no submission.
The hardy stout Freeholders
That knew the Tyrant was near,
In girdles and on shoulders,
A grove of oaks did bear;

" Whom when he saw in battle draw,
And thought how he might need 'em,
He turned his arms, allowed their terms,
Replete with noble freedom.
The promised land of blessing
(For our forefathers meant)
Is now in sight possessing,
For Canaan sure was Kent.

" The dome at Knole, by same enroll'd;
The Church at Canterbury;
The hops, the beer, the cherries here;
Would fill a famous story.
Then sing in praise of the Men of Kent,
So loyal, brave, and free;
'Mongst Britains race, if one surpass,
A Man of Kent is he."

It is universally known what struggles the men of Kent made to preserve their ancient liberties, and maintain their ancient law of gavelkind, and the success with which those struggles were attended. All lands in Kent are taken to be under that tenure, and heirs, at the age of fifteen, may give and sell their lands in gavelkind, and can inherit. To

show that this ancient tenure is still in existence, the author of this work purchased a tenement and land in the High-street, Eltham, in the year 1839, left by will of an old inhabitant of Eltham to his only daughter. This lady died and left issue three sons. The husband expected that he should receive the whole amount of the purchase money; but this being under the ancient tenure, the three sons put in their claim and obtained equal shares, after deducting their father's life interest in the property.

It was also supposed that if the father was attainted of treason or felony, the heir of gavelkind land could inherit; for the custom was said to be, "The father to the bough, and the son to the plough." The men of Kent, having made terms with the Conqueror, were left in quiet possession of their old Saxon privileges and free customs, the county escaping all the political convulsions which swept over England after the Conquest.

In the reign of Henry VI. there were not above forty persons in all Kent that held property by any other tenure than this of gavelkind; which was afterwards altered in much of the land of the county, upon the petition of divers Kentish gentlemen, so as to descend to the eldest son, according to the course of common law, by statute 21 Henry VIII., cap. 3, for Dis-gavelling Lands in Kent; and by statute 31 Henry VIII., cap. 26. Also by charter of King John, Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury, was authorised to exchange those tenures holden of the see of Canterbury, into tenures of knight's service. This peculiar tenure had effect on some of the lands in Lee, and when the sale and transfer of any land or tenement takes place, the title deeds are always questioned whether the property has been dis-gavelled, according to the course of common law and custom of the realm, in order to give a good title of the same to the purchaser of the estate.

In front of Park-place there formerly stood a house, built of wood, of only two rooms on the ground floor. Most of the old houses in the parish have been pulled down. Some were called rookeries, in consequence of the number of families crowded in one of these old tenements. Accommodation in house property was so small, that the author states below, from memory, the occupiers of every mansion, house, and tenement, in Lee, in 1814, starting from the Tiger's Head inn, Lee Green, which is the only house left of old Lee in that part of the parish:—

William Phillips, landlord, Tiger's Head-inn	Charles Parkinson, College-farm
John Giles, Lee-park-farm	Giles and Harris, Claypit-farm
George Giles, Burnt-ash-farm	Jacob Spicer, cottage, corner Water-lane
Thomas Waller, Grove-farm	Daniel Wadman, cottage, Burnt-ash-lane
Thomas Raynor, bailiff, cottage on Grove-farm	Samuel Smith, shoemaker, ditto
W. Stilwell, cottage, corner Marvel's-lane	Jas. Wall, carpenter, wooden cottage, on slip of land by side of the Quaggy, Lee-green
George Russell, cottage, Burnt-ash-lane	Thomas Shearman, wheelwright
C. Fennel, next Tiger's Head, High-road	Wm. Hurdiss, bailiff on Burnt-Ash-farm
Jas. Burke, wooden cottage, Lee-green	Henry Butler, muffin-maker
(Waste land over the water)	Thos. Barrow, baker and constable
Richard Starnes, Horn-park-farm	James Burke, pensioner of Sir F. Baring

James Anderson, gardener to ditto
Richard Willmott, farm servant
William Hudson, gardener to J. R.

Williams
Miss Potter, corner of Old-road
William Leitch, sen., carpenter
— Beatson (now Working-men's
Institute)

William Morland, Lee-house
James R. Williams, J.P. (now Mr.
Young's)

Benjamin Aislabie, Boone's-man-
sion

Frederick Perkins, Manor-house
Miss Grimani, ladies' school (now
Pentland-house)

Miss Hart, young gentleman's pre-
paratory school

Robert E. Brown, Manor market-
gardens

Joseph Sladen (now The Firs)

Mrs. Wooderson, dame's - school,
No. 1, Boone's-almshouses, next
the chapel

Mrs. Turrell, J. Dowden, No. 2

Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Hearnden, No. 3

James Adams, George Lee, No. 4

Miss White, north-west corner of
Brandram-road

Mrs. Casey Love, No. 2, North-row,
High-road

Jas. Adams, jun., John Corn, 3, 4

George Groom, Thomas Ball, 5, 6

Thos. Pickering, Mrs. Greathead, 7, 8

Jane Weaver, George Allen, 9, 10

Miss Knibb, Mrs. Humphreys, 11,
and 12

Wm. Leitch, jun., carpenter, south
side

James Mills, — Morgan, F. Hud-
son, — Hanlon, — Casselton,
all tenants in Rookery-house

William Norris, Rose-cottage (now
Rose of Lee)

Christopher Godmond, north side

*(From here to Lee-bridge all
houses were on the south side.)*

William Sidery, builder and church-
warden

Miss Walker, Mrs. Wiltshire

George Fowle, carpenter

Wm. Arscott, Mrs. Rowell

Mrs. Crossley, next Lee-place

Mrs. Dickenson, Mrs. Baildon,
Nos. 1 and 2, Lee-place

Mrs. Wynch, Capt. Wright, 3, 4

— Watson, — Strickland, 5, 6

Capt. Trounce, — Hunter, 7, 8

Miss Robinson, W. F. Court-
ney, 9, 10

Capt. Tripe, — Booth, 11, 12

Mrs. Eaton, No. 1, Caroline-place

Nathaniel Scarlett, — Rogers, 2, 3

Mrs Sills, and vacant land, No. 4

John Welsh, No. 1, Albion-place

Mrs. Drew, John Hearnden, 2, 3

L'Abbe de Tellier, Mrs. Mott, 4, 5

John Carr, — Edwards, 6, 7

Mrs. Cleeves, Hannah Mills, 8, 9

Charles Pram, Mary Foard, 10, 11

Samuel Wilkins, No. 1, Elm-place

Thos. Barber, Mrs. Moore, 2, 3

Thos. Cook, James Arscott 4, 5

Daniel Goddard, J. Bilby, 6, 7

William Topham, — Grainger, 8, 9

Mrs. Groves, T. Delany, 10, 11

Mrs. Cutmore, Thos. Fowle, 12, 13

Robt. Chissel, T. Narroway, 14, 15

Henry Vickers, — Bird, 16, 17

John Morris, — Smith, 18, 19

C. Heath, Joseph Vickers, 20, 21

William Skinner, Mrs. Budd, Lee-
bridge

William Moore, hair-dresser (now
White Horse-inn)

Thomas Brandram, Lee-grove

The Rev. Geo. Lock, the Rectory

Alderman Matthias Prime Lucas,

Dacre-house

The author can vouch that the foregoing list of occupiers of houses and tenements in the parish of Lee, from the year 1814 to the year 1818, to be correct; having carefully compared notes with two old inhabitants of Lee, now residing in the parish. One, Daniel Wadman, senr., who, when a boy, lived with his father in Burnt-ash-lane cottages, and worked on most all the farms in the parish. He has verified the same to be correct from his long residence, and from being familiar with most of the residents. Many years must have passed since any houses had been erected in Lee, the very oldest being all built of wood.

The first modern houses erected, were built in the year 1809, by Sir Francis Baring, Bart., great-grandfather to the present Earl Northbrook, and they are two semi-detached houses at the side of Camden-place, next the bridge, Lee Green. Sir Francis was one of those noblemen of the old school, who made provision for his old and faithful servants in their old age, for which purpose these houses were built. He superannuated his butler and gardener, with a pension of £30 per annum and one of those houses each, to reside in for life. Their widows lived to enjoy the benefit of the pension for upwards of thirty years. The buildings now look ancient.

The next houses erected was Lee-place, in the High-road, leading to Lee-bridge, on the south side, in the year 1812. Lee-grove and Lee-terrace were built in 1825. Since that time there has been no greater increase of inhabitants and accumulation of buildings in any village round London than Lee, which, within the space of the past forty years, has doubled and trebled in magnitude.

And whilst all this vast increase of houses and population has been going on, successful efforts have from time to time been made to provide for the spiritual welfare of the people, in erecting churches and chapels for public worship. Schools, too, for the education of the poor, have been established; and various societies for the advancement of the moral, intellectual, and social welfare of the inhabitants generally set on foot, and kept going.

A summary and review of these, together with a notice of the several charitable institutions connected with the parish, will be the subject matter of our next chapter.





CHAPTER IV.

PLACES of Public Worship in Lee : The Parish Church—Christ Church, Lee Park—Holy Trinity Church—St. Mildred's, Burnt Ash Hill—St. Peter's, Eltham Road—Boone's Chapel—New Church in Handen Road—Congregational Chapel—Lee Baptist Chapels—Bible Christian Chapel—Charities in Lee : Boone's Charity—Queen Elizabeth's College, Greenwich—Hatchcliffe's Charity—Simeon Shole's Trust—The Sladen Trust—Lampe Meade—Lee Soup Kitchen—Fund to alleviate Distress in Lee, January, 1861.

THE present parish church of St. Margaret, Lee, was built under a local Act of Parliament, 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 54, passed 4th July, 1838. The old parish church had become so dilapidated that its repair would have been a great expense to the inhabitants, and as the church and churchyard were both inadequate to the wants of the parish, it was thought desirable that a new church, capable of accommodating a greater number of people, should be erected, with a churchyard of suitable size attached.

Thomas Brandram, Esq., having offered a convenient site for a new church and churchyard, opposite to the old one, about 1a. 2r. 25p., for the sum of £937 10s., the said offer, being advantageous to the inhabitants, was accepted. The gross value of land adjacent was about £1000 per acre. The old church was taken down after the consecration of the new one, which, when consecrated, became in every respect, the parish church. The first committee appointed to carry the Act into execution, was the Rev. G. Lock, Rector, chairman ; T. Brandram, Esq., treasurer ; Joseph Sladen, Esq., Capt. W. E. Farrer, C. A. Fergusson, Esq., J. Meadows White, Esq., Thomas Postans and William Sidery, churchwardens, F. H. Hart, sidesman.

The first stone was laid by Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., 17th July, 1839.

The new church and churchyard were consecrated on the 11th of March, 1841, by the Lord Bishop of Rochester, and opened for divine service.

Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., Lord of the Manor of Lee, claimed, by faculty, in respect of his mansion house, eight free sittings for his family, also four free sittings for his servants, and to be for ever annexed to his said mansion, he having subscribed £400 to the building fund of the church. Joseph Sladen, Esq., a parishioner, also claimed, by faculty, in like manner, in lieu of his sittings in the old church, and having subscribed £500 to the building fund of the new church. The committee also appropriated twelve sittings to the Rector, for the use of his family and servants, without any payment whatsoever. The committee set out in various parts of the church, one-fourth of the whole number of sittings to be free and open for divine service and the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to any person resident in the parish, who should be willing to occupy the same, without payment whatsoever, according to the Act.

The committee also charged the pew rents with the annual payment of £50, in favour of the Rector of Lee, he giving up all rights and claims in or to the chancel of the church, and being relieved from all burden as to the repairs thereof. The committee having appropriated the sittings required by the parishioners who had applied for the same, the remainder were let to non-residents in the parish, all subject to three months' notice from Christmas in each year.

At a vestry, held 17th January, 1844, the Rector announced to the parishioners that it was his intention to provide a third service, in order to meet the wishes of the inhabitants. To provide for this service, a subscription was raised for fitting up the church with the Bude light, which amounted to £219 1s. 6d.; and it was also resolved that annual subscriptions be collected from the congregation for the expenses of the service.

Church accommodation again became inadequate to the increasing population (for since the church was built, it had grown from 2359 to 3552), so the committee resolved, at a meeting held the 21st December, 1848, that they should proceed forthwith to erect galleries. They soon, through their treasurer, entered into a contract with Messrs. Lucas, builders, to construct galleries in conformity with the plans submitted to the vestry by Mr. Brown, the architect, and to have the same completed on or before the 11th March, 1849, that being the anniversary of the opening of the new church.

The new organ, by Bishop, was opened by Dr. Wesley, on the 15th August, 1850.

After the galleries were erected the pew rents amounted to £650 per annum. The church rates being abolished in March, 1869, seriously affected the financial position of the parish church, and it became the duty of the churchwardens to consider what course should be taken to equalize the income and expenditure. The following statement was laid before the parishioners and congregation, viz. :—Interest on debt of £1950, £90; fixed payment to Rector £50; evening service £50; income tax, choir, and incidental expenses £60; and to meet ordinary expenses of the church £400. Total £650.

Under these circumstances the churchwardens recommended, with the sanction of the Rector (the Rev. C. Lawrence) and the approval of the church committee, that special offertories should be introduced for the purpose of defraying the expenses connected with the celebration of divine worship, and the necessary maintenance of the fabric.

In the following year, considerable internal alterations were done, in building a vestry on the south side of the altar; removing the organ from the west gallery to the north side of the altar; removing the reredos, and opening the north and south doors; also re-painting the whole of the church, and placing choir seats in the chancel, and lighting with gas. A new font and communion table were also added. The total cost was £1569 11s. The church was re-opened for divine service on Sunday, 18th December, 1870.

The best and most serviceable re-arrangement of the parish church, however, was that in 1876, when the galleries were removed. These galleries never were a part of the church when built; and loud were the protests of many of the seat-holders when they were erected. The vestry was now utilized as a chapel, in providing further accommodation for worshippers. The three chancel arches were rebuilt; the roof of the chancel groined in stone; and the flooring of the same paved through-

out with Minton's tiles. No sooner was the work of re-arrangement commenced, than special gifts and subscriptions flowed in in a remarkable manner, to carry out the desired improvements.

Amongst the special gifts were a memorial east window, a reredos, pulpit, and the oak benches. The subscriptions, including a thank-offering of £1000, amounted to £4701 7s. 10d.

The church committee undertook the expense of rebuilding the organ; the heating and lighting of the church; and many other works which they thought would conduce to the comfort of the congregation. The waste space underneath the church was utilized, and converted into most useful vestries. The baptistry, at the west entrance, was re-arranged, and is now the admiration of every one. A great improvement was also made in the building of the north and south porches.

Great praise is due to the Rector, the Rev. Frederick Henry Law, the churchwardens, and committee for their exertions and perseverance until the whole work was satisfactorily completed. The church was reopened for divine service on Wednesday, 28th June, 1876. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese preached in the morning, and the Lord Bishop of Ely in the evening. The offertory was devoted to the restoration fund.

Since these great alterations, several special gifts have been made to the church. The whole of the windows on the south side of the body of the church have been filled with stained glass; also two windows on the north side. A handsome carved oak cover to the font; and a covering to the coils of hot-water pipes, in decorated ironwork, have been presented; also a brass eagle lectern. The walls of the church have been chastely coloured, giving a warm and bright appearance to the whole.

During the past summer nearly the whole of the exterior of the church has been newly cemented; a work rendered necessary by forty years' exposure to all weathers, and especially the severe frost of last winter.

The offertories at St. Margaret's amount to a good sum during the year. From Easter 1878 to Easter 1879, the ten special offertories alone amounted to £523 18s. 3d.; and in the year following, the six offertories reached £323 18s. 8d. Those for the sick and poor, during the same year amounted to over £184. Also a subscription, generously raised as a testimony to the worth and value of our late Parish Clerk, John Faulkner, for the benefit of his widow and children, reached the handsome amount of £675.

Connected with the parish church is a well-organized District Visiting Society, Needlework Society, Clothing, Coal, and other clubs. These and other societies, clubs, penny bank, and library are held at St. Margaret's House, Old-road, under the presidency of the Rector, the Rev. F. H. Law, or of the Lady Adelaide Law; who have the generous assistance of a staff of ladies and gentlemen in carrying on these good works.

CHRIST CHURCH, LEE PARK.

The first corner stone of this edifice was laid 3rd September, 1853, by the Rev. George Lock, Rector; it being the fiftieth anniversary of his holding the living of Lee. This church was erected as a testimonial from his parishioners to the zeal and fidelity with which he had declared the whole counsel of God, and preached the word of His grace amongst them.

In order to promote the building of Christ Church, an influential committee was appointed, on February 19th, 1853, the Rev. G. Lock, chairman ; Colonel B. Smith, deputy chairman ; Chamberlain Hinchliff and John Sutton, Esqrs., joint treasurers : Rev. W. F. Sims, M.A., hon. secretary ; when the sum of £1037 16s. was subscribed in the vestry-room. Great praise is due to the committee and hon. secretary for the zeal and perseverance in obtaining subscriptions towards the building fund, which amounted to £7863 os. 9d., generously and universally raised as a testimony of the work of a minister, whose popularity and kindness caused his parishioners to build another church, and to leave at the same time for our children's children, and for the future inhabitants of this parish, a memorial to tell them that this church was erected for Christ's service and ministry.

The living is in the gift of the Rector, and was presented to the Rev. W. F. Sims, M.A., who had been Curate at the parish church for some years previously. The rev. gentleman is still the Vicar of Christ Church.

The church was consecrated by Bloomfield, Bishop of London, on the 1st August, 1854, and opened for public worship on the 3rd September, the first anniversary of the jubilee, and fifty-first of Mr. Lock's incumbency as Rector of Lee.

After the space of ten years this church became inadequate to the wants of the occupiers of the numerous villa residences of the surrounding neighbourhood, so it was found necessary to extend the whole of the west end of the church, by re-arranging the pews and seats and making better provision for the poor and children of the schools, and, by this alteration, an additional 210 sittings were obtained. A new organ was erected, at a cost of £450 ; also stained glass was inserted in eight windows, at a cost of £700.

A meeting of the committee was held at the Vicar's house, on the 7th July, 1874, for the completion of the tower and spire ; it was resolved to solicit subscriptions for this object, and, by the list published 13th June, 1876, the total amount collected was £1580. The tower and spire were completed, also a new wall and railing erected, at a cost of £400.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

This church, near to Belgrave-villas, leading from the High-road, accommodating about 900 persons, was the next church built for the spiritual wants of the parish. The first stone was laid by Lewis Glenton, Esq., of The Pagoda (at the rear of Haddo-villas), Blackheath. The church living was presented by him, in the year 1863, to the Rev. Benjamin Walter Bucke, M.A., of King's College, London, and St. John's College, Cambridge, who is a very popular preacher.

ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH, SOUTH LEE.

Early in the year 1877, the Rector of Lee informed the inhabitants of South Lee that the Earl of Northbrook had decided to have a large new church for that district, and, in order that the good work should have a fair start, his lordship had liberally offered a site and the sum of £2000 as a nucleus for the building fund. This donation was soon followed by others ; the Rev. F. W. Helder, the Vicar designate, subscribed £100 at once, which he afterwards increased to £250 ; this was followed by a similar amount from an unknown friend, per the Rector of Lee.

A committee was formed to further the good work, and during the last week in July, 1877, the building was commenced.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed by Lord Northbrook, July 25th, 1878, in the presence of a very numerous gathering of ladies and gentlemen. The inscription on the stone was, "To the glory of God, in the faith of the Lord our Saviour, and honour of St. Mildred, this dedication stone was laid by the Right Hon. Earl Northbrook, July 25th, 1878." A bottle containing coins of the realm and a copy of the *Times* was placed under the stone, the service concluded with the hymn "Christ is our corner stone."

Previous to the consecration Earl Northbrook gave a further £500. The total cost of the church amounted to about £6000. The Commissioners of Woods and Forests testified their approval of the scheme by voting a grant of £200; Mr. C. A. Ainger, the chairman of the committee, Mr. S. Carter, Mr. R. Cooper, Mr. S. Honywill, each gave £100. A series of popular entertainments and concerts produced the sum of £106 17s. 2d., and several influential gentlemen swelled the list by donations of £50 each, which, with smaller donations, raised the amount to the handsome total of £5157, leaving about £800 to clear off the debt.

Michaelmas Day, 1879, witnessed the consecration of the permanent church for the parishioners of this new district, by the Lord Bishop of the diocese. His lordship gave a powerful address at the consecration service; and at the evening service a sermon was preached. The offerings during the day were for the building fund, and amounted to more than £97.

The church is a cruciform structure in decorated Norman style, and was built by Messrs. G. Coles and Sons, of Croydon, from designs by Mr. H. Elliott, of 99, Strand. It is capable of seating 700 people, and has a good-sized choir.

Lord Northbrook has given, in addition to the land for the church, a piece of ground as site for a vicarage.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

This church was at first a temporary iron building, and formerly stood in the parish of Lee, in the rear of Eltham-road, and then in the district of Christ Church, Lee-park. In the year 1870, a new district was assigned to St. Peter's by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, part from Christ Church, Lee, and part from the parish of Eltham. The new church of brick and stone was built in St. Peter's-road, Eltham, by Messrs. Dove Brothers, from the designs of Messrs. Newman and Billing, of Tooley-street, London, and it is a very commodious edifice, having seats for about 800 persons. It was consecrated July 13th, 1871.

BOONE'S ALMSHOUSE CHAPEL.

This chapel is near Lenham-road, Lee Green, and was built in the year 1875, in place of the ancient one built by Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1683, now standing in front of the Merchant Taylors' Alms-houses, directly opposite the west end of the Old-road. The new chapel is of red brick, and stands in the centre of the new almshouses, which front the High-road, Lee Green, built by the Merchant Taylors' Company, being Christopher Boone's trust estate. The Rector of Lee, Rev. Frederick Henry Law, is the chaplain. Full service is held here on Sundays.

NEW CHURCH, HANDEN ROAD.

At the commencement of the present year, 1881, the Rector of Lee, announced in a letter to his parishioners, that Lord Northbrook intended erecting at his own expense, a chapel-of-ease to St. Margaret's Church. During the summer the building has been erected at the bottom of Handen-road, Burnt-ash-lane, a part of St. Margaret's parish a considerable distance from the church.

The edifice is a plain, substantial structure of red brick, with tiled roof, and neat bell turret. Its position is quite central to a greatly-increasing neighbourhood; the houses erected in the roads near it having, in twenty months, from 1878 to 1880, risen from 110 to 220—just doubled. Respecting the church, we quote the following paragraph from the Rector's letter:—

"The Chapel-of-Ease, then, to the Parish Church, which I purpose calling 'The Church of the Good Shepherd,' is to hold 550 persons, all the Sittings are to be unappropriated, so that the poor cannot be crowded out from what is more especially their own Church; and I have sufficient faith and confidence in those who will worship there, to believe that by their offerings, sufficient will be contributed, not only to provide for all necessary expenses of the Services, but also for the maintenance of at least one of the Clergy who will be especially in charge of it."

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, near the Blackheath railway station, was built in the year 1855; the Rev. J. Shearman, from the Tabernacle, Blackfriars-road, was the first minister appointed.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, in Burnt-ash-lane, near the railway station, was built in the year 1874. The Rev. George Critchley, B.A., minister.

THE BAPTIST CHAPEL, High-road, Lee, near Eastdown-park. The Rev. Robert H. Marten, B.A., 53, Blessington-road, minister. There is vestry and schoolroom at the rear of the chapel. Many benevolent and charitable funds are attached to this chapel; also a maternity society.

THE BAPTIST CHAPEL, in Dacre-park, was built in 1852; the Rev. Knibb Dexter, minister. There is a communion fund and Dorcas society attached to this chapel.

THE BAPTIST CHAPEL, Bromley-road, Burnt-ash-hill, is also open for public worship; and THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL, situate next to Boone's Almshouses, High-road.

BOONE'S CHARITY.

A scheme for the regulation and management of this charity was settled and approved by the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, the 27th November, 1868, and is as follows:—The charity and the funds and endowments thereof are to be managed and administered by the Merchant Taylors' Company, as trustees. There are to be twelve almspeople, who shall have resided in Lee, Lewisham, or Greenwich, for not less than five years next preceding the time of election, subject to the qualifications therein required. There is to be paid out of the income of the charity to each of the almspeople a weekly stipend of 10s. They are to be nominated and appointed by a body of "nominators," consisting of the Rector and Churchwardens of the parish of St. Margaret's, Lee, and the respective Vicars of Christ

Church, and Holy Trinity, Lee, for the time being, and of seven other persons resident in one of the parishes of Lee, Lewisham, or Greenwich, to be elected by the vestry of the parish of Lee. The trustees are to appoint a medical officer to attend upon the almspeople, at a yearly salary not exceeding £20; also a chaplain, who is to be a clergyman of the Church of England, in priest's orders. The Rector, for the time being, of the parish of Lee, if resident therein and willing to accept the office of chaplain, is to be preferred by the trustees in making any appointment to the office. The chaplain to be paid a yearly stipend of not less than £75 per annum, and not more than £100, as they shall from time to time determine. The trustees are to pay a yearly sum not exceeding £15 for the salary of the clerk at the chapel, who is to be appointed by the trustees, at the recommendation of the chaplain. The trustees are also to apply a further sum, not exceeding £25 per annum, in lighting and warming the chapel, and providing the requisite furniture, books, etc., and other incidental expenses.

Out of the remaining yearly income of the charity, after providing for the several payments and purposes above mentioned, the trustees are to reserve a yearly sum of £120, or such other less sum as the residuary income shall be sufficient to provide, and invest the same in the purchase of consols, the dividends whereof to be accumulated and invested in like manner for the formation of a fund to be called "The Education Fund," which is to be applicable to educational purposes, for the benefit of the parish of Lee and the adjoining parishes or districts, according to a further scheme to be hereafter established by the order of the Charity Commissioners, upon the application of the trustees. The residue (if any) of the yearly income of the charity is to be reserved and invested by the trustees in like manner, as a residuary fund, and to be applicable in furtherance of the objects of the foundation, according to the provisions of a similar scheme, to be established in like manner by the order of the Commissioners. If any doubt or question arise as to the construction of the scheme or the management of the charity, application is to be made to the Charity Commissioners for their opinion and advice, which, when given, is to be conclusive.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S COLLEGE.

This charity was founded by William Lambard, of Lincoln's-inn, in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, in 1578. A scheme for the management and regulation of the College, and for the application of the income thereof, was settled and approved by the Court of Chancery on the 5th August, 1856.

The Drapers' Company are the governors of the college, which is situate in London-street, Greenwich, immediately opposite the South-Eastern railway station. Under the scheme two almspeople are to be elected from Lee, chosen by the Rector and Churchwardens, Sidesmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Constable. The elections are to take place in the parish church or vestry, upon the Sunday next, or next but one, after notice received from the college of a place being vacant: the election to be conducted in accordance with the ordinances and statutes annexed to the scheme. The stipends of the almspeople are £27 a year, payable in monthly sums of £2 5s. for each person. In the event of the election of a married person, having the qualification required, the husband or wife, as the case may be, is also to be admitted to the

college ; but the elected is to receive monthly pension as a single person only. The college is under the supervision of a warden or matron and chaplain.

HATCLIFFE'S CHARITY.

This charity was founded by the will of William Hatcliffe, dated 15th May, 1620, for the benefit of the poor of the several parishes of Greenwich, Lee, and Lewisham. A scheme for the management of this charity, and for the application of the income thereof, was settled and approved by the Court of Chancery, on the 4th July, 1857.

The real estates belonging to the charity are situate at East Greenwich, and are vested in a body of feoffees under the scheme. The net annual income of the charity is divisible into four equal parts, two of which go to Greenwich, one to Lee, and one to Lewisham. The average amount of a fourth part is £200. The managers of the Lee portion of the charity are the three feoffees, the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Margaret's, the Vicar and Churchwardens of Christ Church ; and such portion is, under the scheme, to be applied as follows :—

First. In the establishing in Lee of an adult evening school for boys, aged fourteen and upwards, being sons or relatives of householders or residents in Lee, and which school is to be under the superintendence of a master, subject to the direction and control of the managers ; the master's salary not to be less than £20 nor more than £40 per annum ; the head-money to be fixed by the managers from time to time, and not to exceed threepence a week, one-third of which is to be paid to the master, in addition to his salary, the remaining two-thirds to go towards the current expenses of the school. The education to comprise reading, writing, and arithmetic, English history, geography, grammar, and a general knowledge of the text of the Bible, and of common subjects. The managers are to apply a sum not exceeding £15 a year towards lighting and other expenses of the school, and for the purchase of books, stationery, etc., to be furnished to the boys either free or at a diminished cost.

Secondly. In providing twelve scholarships, tenable for three years each, two boys and one girl being elected every year. No candidate to be under thirteen nor above sixteen ; and to be boys and girls from the Lee National Schools, having certain qualifications mentioned in the scheme. The examination for the scholarships is to be conducted from time to time as the managers shall appoint ; but no examination is to be deemed sufficient in the absence of a certificate of the candidates having passed a competent examination in Holy Scripture, and of regular attendance at public worship. The successful candidates are to be entitled to receive the following prizes, viz. : in the first year, the best candidate £10, the next best £2 ; and in each of the two remaining years £5 each respectively. The sums to be paid in respect of such scholarships to be applied by the managers for the benefit of the scholars. At the completion of every year the scholars are to produce to the managers certificates of general good behaviour during the past year.

Thirdly. In applying any sum not exceeding £20 in any one year in aid of the existing Infant School at Lee.

Fourthly. In applying any sum not exceeding £30 in any one year in payments of 30s. apiece to poor men and women, residents in Lee, and qualified as set forth in the scheme.

Fifthly. In appointing a clerk, at a salary not exceeding £10 per annum, for the duties therein mentioned ; and

Lastly. The scheme directs that any surplus income, after providing for the several purposes before mentioned, is to be invested in the purchase of Three per Cent. stock, in the names of the trustees of the charity ; and the dividends of such stock are to constitute part of the ordinary income of the Lee portion of the charity.

SIMEON SHOLE'S TRUST.

Under the directions contained in the will of the late Mr. Simeon Shole, of Lee, who died in 1863, £100 consols were purchased in the joint names of the Rev. George Lock, Hugh Man Lawrence, Esq., and Samuel Herman de Zoete, Esq., the dividends whereof are for the purpose of keeping the testator's tomb in the churchyard in good condition. Any surplus to be applied for the benefit of the poor of Lee, in such manner as the Rector and Churchwardens think fit.

THE SLADEN TRUST.

By deed poll, under the hands and seals of Joseph Sladen, Esq., and Rev. Edward Mainwaring Sladen, dated 9th January, 1857, certain trusts are declared of £219 9s. 7d. consols, then standing in their names, jointly with the Rev. George Lock, then Rector of Lee, and William Sidery, of Lee, builder, as follows, viz. :—"To dispose of and expend the dividends : Firstly by setting apart yearly £1, or such larger sum as may be found necessary, for keeping in good order the family vault and tomb of Joseph Sladen, Esq., and secondly, by handing over the residue of the dividends unto the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish Church of St. Margaret's, Lee, to be by them distributed yearly, about Christmas, in such manner, either in money or food or clothing, as to them shall seem meet in their absolute discretion, among a certain number of deserving poor who have been in the parish five years, not being under sixty years of age and not recipients of Hatcliffe's Charity. But no one to receive, either in money or value, less than 5s. or more than 10s. No distribution to be made unless an audit of the accounts of the Trust shall have been held at the ordinary Easter Vestry every third year, and the Vestry be satisfied that the provisions for the preservation of the family vault and tomb shall have been fully observed."

"LAMPE MEADE."

William Hatcliffe, the founder of "Hatcliffe's Charity," by his will, gave and bequeathed "one little piece or parcel of land in Lee, in the county of Kent, called Lampe Meade," to the parish church for ever. Under the provisions of the New Parish Church Act, 1 & 2 Vic., this piece of land was sold, and the proceeds invested in the purchase of £233 6s. 8d. consols, whereof the dividends are applicable to the repairs of the parish church.

LEE SOUP KITCHEN.

A piece of ground in Church-street, Lee, was demised by indenture, dated March, 1856, to the Rev. G. Lock, Chamberlain Hinchliff, Esq., and Samuel Herman de Zoete, Esq., for a long term of years, at a nominal rent, for the purpose of erecting a building as a soup kitchen, where the poor could be supplied with soup during the severest of the winter months. The first distribution took place on Tuesday, the 23rd

December, 1856, and was delivered to the holders of tickets, at the rate of one penny per quart, being continued weekly as long as the subscriptions lasted. After much consideration as to the best means of distributing the tickets for this charity to the most deserving, the District Visiting Societies were decided upon. The subscribers are numerous, and the amount collected each season, during the past year or two, has reached nearly £90.

Under the will of the Rev. Abraham Colfe, bread was formerly distributed in the parish church every Sunday in the year, purchased from funds vested in the Leathersellers' Company, producing the sum of 8s. 4d. annually. It was afterwards distributed in small loaves at the soup kitchen in the winter months.

In the month of January, 1861, in consequence of the continued severity of the weather, and an almost cessation of out-door work, there arose a large number of cases of distress. To cope with this, a committee was formed, consisting of the parochial Clergy, the Churchwardens and Overseers of Lee, and twelve other gentlemen, who appealed for subscriptions, which were immediately forthcoming. The committee proceeded to investigate and relieve a large number of cases of distress, and distributed in all, during the sharp weather, 1157 quartern loaves and 74 half-sacks of coals.

On the 26th of January the impediment to out-door work ceased, and the committee felt bound to withhold further expenditure from this fund, unless, or until, a renewal of this weather should occur. The total contributions to the fund amounted to £141 18s. 6d., and the expenditure to £52 4s. 3d., leaving a balance of £89 14s. 3d., which the contributors, after a copy of the accounts was forwarded them, desired should be paid to the treasurers of the District Visiting Society and the School Building Fund.





CHAPTER V.

THE Schools in Lee and Neighbourhood—The Colfe Grammar School, Lewisham—School in Eltham Church Tower, and the new one built in 1816—Dame Schools in Lee—Lee National Schools : their enlargement—Infant Schools—Hedgeley Street Schools—Boone Street School—Board Schools, Bromley Road—Lee Working Men's Institution—Lee and Blackheath Horticultural Society—The Disastrous Floods of 1878—The Lewisham Union of Parishes.

NEXT in importance to the making provision for the spiritual wants of the present generation, we must certainly place the solicitude that has been shown for the education of the young of all classes. Less than a century ago, education was far from being considered necessary, even among well-to-do people ; but its importance having been once recognized, rapid progress has been made, and at the present time provision is made for the education of every child in the kingdom. The oldest school in this neighbourhood is

THE COLFE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, LEWISHAM.

This charity was founded by the Rev. Abraham Colfe, Vicar of Lewisham, in the year 1652, for the maintenance of the free grammar schools and almshouses at Lewisham. A scheme for the management of the estates, and the application of the income thereof, and for the government of the said schools and almshouses, was settled and approved by the Court of Chancery, in the month of July, 1857. The Leathersellers' Company are the owners and governors of the charity property, and are to manage the same, and apply the income according to the scheme.

The scheme provides for the election of thirty-one foundation scholars to the grammar school, in addition to the sons of the Incumbents of the several parishes of Greenwich, Deptford, Lewisham, Lee, Charlton, Woolwich, and Chislehurst, each of whom is to have the privilege of sending one son at a time, to be considered in all respects as a boy on the foundation. The thirty-one foundation scholars are to be selected from the several parishes, and in the several proportions as follows, viz. :—from Greenwich, ten ; Deptford, eight ; Lewisham, five ; Lee, one ; Charlton and Kidbrook, one ; Woolwich, three ; Eltham and Mottingham, three ; and such selection is to be made by the said several parishes respectively in vestry-meeting to be called specially for that purpose. In the event of any parish failing to elect for the space of six weeks after notice given by the governors, such governors are to be at liberty to elect as therein mentioned. The boys to be seven years of age or upwards, to be of good character, and able to read and write ; no scholar to remain in the school after the age of eighteen.

The instruction afforded is to be in the principles of the Christian religion, according to the doctrines of the Church of England ; the Greek, Latin, and French languages ; literature and composition ; sacred and profane history ; geography ; and such other branches of education

as the governors may from time to time deem expedient. The head master is to be paid for every foundation scholar the following quarterly sums, viz. :—for every boy under ten, 5s. a quarter; and for every boy above ten, 10s. a quarter. Suitable prayers, taken from the liturgy of the Church of England, are to be read every morning and evening, and other religious instruction given at such times as the head master shall think best, by reading and explaining the scriptures and liturgy of the Church of England. The school to be open to children of parents of all religious tenets, and no boy to be required to learn the catechism of the Church of England, or attend the reading of prayers if his parents shall express in writing that they have conscientious objections to his doing so.

There is to be an annual examination of the boys at the school, and the owners and governors are to appoint some fit and proper person, being a graduate of one of the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, or London, to conduct such examination. The period of such is to be fixed by the owners and governors, and is to take place in the presence of the visiting committee (nominated by them for that purpose), and the master of the school, and of such other persons as the owners and governors may invite to attend the same. The owners and governors are yearly, after such examination, to distribute such and so many prizes, not exceeding in value £9, as they think fit, to meritorious scholars educated in the school, who shall distinguish themselves for learning or good conduct, and who, in the judgment of the examiner and visiting committee, shall be the most deserving.

The owners and governors are, out of the income of the charity, to apply the annual sum of £40, in the maintenance and support at either of the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, or London, of one scholar, chosen in the first instance from among those who have been admitted to the school on the foundation, and who shall have been educated three years in the school prior to the time of the examination.

This school was a great boon to the farmers and tradesmen of the various parishes in the neighbourhood who had the privilege of sending one boy to be placed on the foundation, as there was no other school to send their sons to be properly educated until within the past half-century. Usually some old decayed tradesman would speculate in getting up an establishment as a boys' school, but they were very defective, and the scholars generally very unruly in and out of school.

Boys from Lee, and the surrounding villages, went to a school of this description, kept by an old tradesman by the name of Webb, in the tower of old Eltham Church, until the year 1816, in which year the gentlemen of Eltham, with their Vicar, the Rev. John Kennard Shaw Brooke, resolved to build a new school house, in Pound-place, at the upper end of the village, on the Lancaster and Bell's system, which was a boon to the children of the poor of the villages, who were first taught to write on sand, shaken in wooden trays made for that purpose. Learning amongst the lower orders at that time was in a very bad state.

LEE NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

In the beginning of the present century there were only what were called "dame schools" in Lee—one in the old almshouses, next the chapel, kept by Mrs. Wooderson; also one near Lee-bridge, kept by Mrs. Groves, an ancient dame, who taught the rough element of boys and girls to the best of her ability. Although there was a variety of

scholars, tradesmen and other respectable families were glad to avail themselves of any teaching for their children.

New buildings, at length, were fast increasing in various parts of the parish, and in the year 1838, it was found necessary to proceed without delay to raise a fund for the purpose of building the National Schools in Lee. A committee was formed to carry out the desired object, to solicit subscriptions and donations to the building fund. The parishioners subscribed the handsome sum of £659 14s. 4d., and a fancy fair was held in the grounds of the new Proprietary School, Lee-park, which realised £694 6s. 4d., and the committee immediately purchased the land and built the schools. The land cost £348 8s. 6d. The contract was taken by Mr. W. Sidery, of Lee, for the sum of £800. The whole was completed by July, 1839, and opened by Lady Baring. The Lord Bishop of Rochester was present, and was highly pleased to meet the committee and the gentry of the neighbourhood. After prayers were offered up the proceedings terminated, and the children were regaled with tea, plum cake, and oranges, to the delight of the numerous visitors. All joined heartily in singing the National Anthem at the conclusion of a happy day.

At the commencement of these schools, many children were literally called in from the streets; at this time Lee was an agricultural parish, and the farmers employed many families with children that could work. Little care was taken to teach them, except on Sundays. At the middle of the last century, two churchwardens of St. Margaret's Church signed the books with a X, and, within the present century, many of the tradesmen could not write their own name until these schools were established; hence a deal of the jealousy amongst the farmers and middle classes existed in teaching the poor in Lee.

These schools require a large amount of money annually to keep them in thorough working order. To accomplish that object the Rev. George Lock set the example by placing his name on the list of annual subscribers for £10; five other gentlemen followed his example for a like sum, and many others for various amounts. Sermons were preached in St. Margaret's Church, on various occasions, when the funds fell short of the expenses incurred. One was preached, in 1846, by the Bishop of Hereford, for the enlargement of the schools, and the collections realised £70 10s.; another, by Bishop Smith, of Victoria, when £72 5s. was given.

In consequence of the rapid increase of the poorer population, it became necessary to enlarge both schools. A subscription was set on foot in order to aid the building fund, and the amount needed to carry out the proposed work was fully realized. The plan adopted by the committee for the enlargement, was the taking out of one end of both schools and joining them together, and building a room for the boys at the east end of the present building. This was done, under the supervision of an architect and authority of the district surveyor, as required by the Act, by Mr. W. Sidery, of Lee, for the sum of £422 18s. 6d., including architect and surveyor's charges, and the school re-opened in January, 1847.

The general view of the school work was now in a complete state, and the attendance of the boys and girls was most satisfactory under the local action of the clergy and laity. Many children that formerly ran the streets in a deplorable state were reclaimed into these schools, which were the means of restoring them as useful members of society.

Many of these boys are now respectable tradesmen and clerks, holding responsible situations of trust, and have been the practical means of improving the morals and bringing up their own children in the like manner. Some of the first boys who attended these schools are now honourable grandfathers to the rising generation. These schools have always had a most excellent master and mistress to conduct them.

When the Elementary Education Act of 1870 came into force, it became necessary to enlarge the present schools with class-rooms. To meet the requirements of the Council of Education, and Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, the committee had to provide funds for the enlargement of both the boys and girls' schools, for the accommodation of 250 children. The clergy and laity of each district had to exert themselves in obtaining donations sufficient for that purpose; and an appeal was made to those who, by ties of property, are connected with the neighbourhood; also to the occupiers of genteel houses in various parts of the parish. The result of such application was that donations were received, in 1876, amounting to £597. During the summer the additional buildings were erected, at a cost of £659 16s. 5d.; the balance was made up by the liberality of twelve gentlemen.

There is also an Infant School in Church-street, Lee, built in 1834, by the late Lady Gertrude Proby. The trustees were the Rector of Lee and the Rev. Joseph Fenn; the last-named gentleman held office from the time of its formation until the time of his lamented death, in 1878. This school is also under the supervision of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, who reported, in his examination of 1878, as follows:—"This school is going on well." There being eighty-one boys and sixty-nine girls, the government grant for the present year amounted to £93 12s. The committee were glad to learn that a late pupil teacher had passed as Queen's Scholar in the first class, in the examination held in May, at the Home and Colonial Training College.

HEDGLEY STREET SCHOOL.

There is also an Infant School in Hedgley-street, Lee-green. The first stone of this school was laid in July, 1870, by Mrs. Lawrence, wife of the Rector, in the presence of a small assembly. The land for the erection of the school was given by Lord Northbrook, in order to provide a want daily increasing for the children of the poor of that neighbourhood, and the rapid increase of building whole streets of new houses for the artizan classes.

A committee was formed to carry out this desirable object, with Earl Northbrook as patron; the Rector, chairman; the churchwardens of St. Margaret's and many other influential gentlemen of the parish, composed the committee; hon. secretary and treasurer, F. Cleeve, Esq., C.B.

This was formerly a purely agricultural district, and the children were literally running the streets. After the building and opening the school, it required great firmness in order to cure their rough manners, which, after a few months, was accomplished, by great perseverance on the part of the mistress and teachers, much to the satisfaction of the managing committee, and Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, up to the present year, 1881.

The number of children who attend the school has increased to 150, and the committee have had to enlarge the building by adding a class-room, capable of accommodating fifty children, to keep pace with the growth of the population of the district. Her Majesty's Inspector

reported: "A good year's work has been done." Also, the Diocesan Inspector examined the infants in religious knowledge, and reported: "Old Testament, very promising; New Testament, very promising; repetition, good. The mistress possesses the art of securing the attention of the children, which is the first requisite for effective teaching; the very little ones making a beginning.—F. J. WOODHOUSE, Diocesan Inspector."

THE BRITISH SCHOOL, in Boone-street, Lee, has been for some years most successfully conducted under a certificated master.

BOARD SCHOOLS, BROMLEY ROAD.

In addition to the above schools, there are the Board Schools, Bromley-road, St. Mildred's district, South Lee, where is the roughest element of children to be taught and brought into a satisfactory state of discipline required by the committee and managers of these schools. The parents reside chiefly in Summerfield-street, and there are several occupants in each house, mostly labourers employed in brickfields and sewer works, or by builders, who employ a great number of these people.

LEE WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTION.

The first effort to found this Institution was made in September, 1854, and the following gentlemen comprised the first committee meeting: Mr. G. Bennett, Mr. G. Lee, Mr. T. Jenner, Mr. P. Saville, Mr. Dallimore, Mr. H. J. Nettlefold, Mr. F. H. Hart, Mr. T. Riley, and Mr. Mote. The original Institution was formerly held in a small room, in Boone-street. Shortly afterwards, the committee obtained from Mr. Jenner the possession of a disused Wesleyan chapel adjoining; where a Mr. Chapman lectured on Sundays. On Sunday, 6th August, 1854, a venerable preacher, 108 years of age, by the name of Fletcher, from Poplar, gave a lecture in connection with the third anniversary of the chapel; and on the following Monday, at Manor Farm, the same lecturer made some interesting statements respecting the Indian and Peninsular Wars, in which he served, under Field Marshal Duke of Wellington.

The permanent establishment of the society was mainly due to T. Brandram, Esq., and to the interest taken by J. Meadows White, Esq., who became its first president. In the following year, 1835, however, Mr. White and family left the parish, and his retirement from the presidency was a great loss to the society. Mr. F. J. Turner was elected to fill the vacancy, and has remained in the office ever since. Mr. T. Jenner was the first treasurer; after his death Mr. Robert Prowse took the office; he being succeeded by the present treasurer, Mr. Henry Couchman. Mr. Dallimore was the first secretary, assisted by Mr. H. J. Nettlefold, who, since December, 1854, has solely performed the duties of that office. Among those who early patronized the Institution was Dr. W. Carr, F. Wickings Smith, Esq., the Rev. W. F. Sims, Vicar of Christ Church, and many others.

In consequence of the increase of houses and population of the neighbourhood, and the growing wants of the various benefit societies connected with the Institution, more accommodation was absolutely necessary. An effort for supplying the need was made by purchasing a piece of freehold land in the Old-road, in order to erect a new and permanent Institution. The money required to carry out this object was chiefly obtained from the produce of three bazaars, which amounted to £735 10s., with the addition of very handsome contributions from

the gentry of the neighbourhood. Having obtained sufficient funds to commence a permanent building, plans were submitted to the committee for the erection of the Institution in the Old-road. Mr. G. F. Havell, builder, High-road, Lee, entered into a contract to build and complete the same for £1171; the building to be finished and ready for the accommodation of the members at Michaelmas, 1877. Great exertions were made to attain that object by Mr. Henry Couchman, who superintended the erection with great perseverance and skill, for the benefit of the Institution.

It was opened October, 1877. It has a fine large assembly room, for lectures and concerts; and reading rooms, which are open all day. There are the attractions of a library, bagatelle board, &c. In the winter months penny readings are held. The Institution has also affiliated to it a large benefit club, for men and women, numbering 500 members; also a coal club.

LEE AND BLACKHEATH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In the year 1867 a project was set on foot of forming a gardeners' society by a few members of the committee of the Lee Working Men's Institution, and the Lee and Blackheath Horticultural Society was formed, and was at once taken in hand by the late Dr. Carr, who became president, and Mr. F. H. Hart, who was appointed treasurer. Owing chiefly to the exertions of these two gentlemen, and the great kindness of the late John Penn, Esq., C.E., who for many years allowed the exhibition to be held in his grounds, at The Cedars (and since continued by Mrs. Penn) the society has progressed in an admirable manner, and obtained the reputation of being second to none of the suburban shows. Since its formation it has given £1003 6s. 6d. in prizes, and is altogether in a flourishing condition, having 450 members, and is still adding new ones. The year 1879 was the most successful exhibition, and financially was a greater success than any held previously; but as the society cannot reckon on such good fortune every year, they still appeal to their friends for annual support, as the current expenses increase according to the number of exhibitors and prize-takers, and extra tent room required. The general committee of management is conducted with the greatest economy.

The society sustained a very great loss in the death of their late president, Dr. Carr, March 22nd, 1877, to whose active exertions the society owes mainly its present useful position, he having always endeared himself to all, by his earnest interest in the society's welfare, and was the means by which the late Emperor and Empress of the French patronized the exhibition, at The Cedars, in June, 1872, who expressed themselves so highly gratified at the sight of the noble trees in the grounds, and the exhibition of plants and fruit. In order to keep in remembrance the interest that the late president took for the welfare of the society, Mrs. Carr, his widow, presents annually a valuable Bible to the gardener who can arrange a group of plants for the best floral effect, also one to the cottager that produces the best collection of vegetables. And John Penn, Esq., on being elected president, in 1877, gave a silver challenge cup, to be presented in memory of the late president, to be held by the winner of the largest amount of prizes in the year.

The patrons of the society are:—The Right Hon. the Earl Northbrook, G.C.S.I.; The Right Hon. Lord Penzance; Sir Charles Mills,

Bart., M.P. ; Viscount Lewisham, M.P. ; J. G. Talbot, Esq., M.P. ; H. B. Farnall, Esq., C.B. ; W. Angerstein, Esq., D.L. F. H. Hart, treasurer.

Whilst writing of the Horticultural Society, we must mention that Lee and Lewisham were visited with a disastrous inundation, on Thursday, April 11th, 1878, when several of the nurseries sustained serious damage to the greenhouses, and stocks of growing plants ; more especially at Lee Green and Burnt-ash-lane, among the extensive grounds of Mr. B. Maller and Mr. J. Walton ; also those of Messrs. Gregory and Evans, Effingham Nursery. The damage done to the houses in Lee was chiefly confined to Robertson-street, where a large hole was made through the wall at the west end, in order to let the enormous quantity of water escape, and discharge into the Quaggy river in the rear. The exceptional rainfall during Wednesday night and Thursday, 10th and 11th April, was to the extent of three inches. A large surface of land, that previously was meadows, which absorbed and held in check a large quantity of rain, which now runs into the roads and streets, where are impervious pavements of asphalt, causing a large proportion of the rainfall to find its way into the sewers and houses of the lower district of Lee and Lewisham ; and the rivers and sewers are not of sufficient capacity or depth to contain or carry off such exceptional rainfalls as these.

At St. Stephen's district, Lewisham, 400 houses were inundated, and seventy-nine at Ladywell. The iron girder bridge crossing the Ravensbourne, near Lewisham Railway Station, was washed down, and greenhouses at the rear of the Plough Hotel were nearly destroyed with their contents. The torrent threw down the wall on the west side of Lewisham Bridge, near Mr. Horton's timber yard, and did considerable damage, rushing over the roadway, carrying bricks 100 yards down the road, and inundating the basements of several streets of small houses ; also the brick bridge which crosses the Quaggy, in the rear of Lee Chapel, was washed down. All the houses in Weardale-road and Hamilton-terrace had the basements inundated with three feet of water, also those in Albion-place and Elm-place, Lee Bridge. Boats were rowed down the whole way to the Plough bridge.

The injury to, and destruction of, stock belonging to various tradesmen must have been enormous. Business was almost suspended. Reports say a rainfall to this extent is rare, as, including this, there have been but five instances in which more than two inches of rain have been recorded at Greenwich Observatory in one day since 1815 ; that in the present instance, was nearly three inches at Greenwich. The sewage, on this occasion, not only came up the drains of the houses, but rushed out of the man-holes on the side of the roads and footways, from Eltham-road to Lee Bridge.

On Friday, 12th April, 1878, a meeting of the leading inhabitants and clergy of the districts of Lee, Lewisham, Blackheath, and Catford, all affected by the overflow of the rivers Quaggy and Ravensbourne, was held at the Plough tavern, Lewisham, Mr. Caffin, Churchwarden of St. Stephen's, Lewisham, in the chair, to consider the best means of relieving the poor whose houses had been inundated, and replacing lost property. The meeting, which was a crowded one, was addressed by the Rev. R. R. Bristow, St. Stephen's, Lewisham ; the Rev. F. H. Law, Rector of Lee ; the Rev. B. W. Bucke, Holy Trinity, Lee ; Capt. Poole ; J. R. Lloyd, Esq., representative of the district at the Metropolitan Board of

Works ; and many others ; and a committee was appointed to distribute the fund to be raised, principally in coals for drying the houses.

The clergy of all denominations and their officers were included in the committee ; and they were to be requested to allow collections for the distressed in their churches. The trustees of Lewisham parochial charities wrote that they were prepared to subscribe £150 ; about that amount was promised at the meeting : and £100 in donations was received in the room.

Cheques for £50 for the Ladywell and Catford district ; £120 for St. Mark's and St. Stephen's districts ; and £50 for Lee, were drawn at once, in order to commence giving relief on Saturday morning. The same evening a committee meeting was held, with the same object, at the Baths and Wash-houses, when about £200 was subscribed or promised, and 200 sacks of coals directed to be distributed on the following day.

The Lee and Lewisham Inundation Fund being closed, the treasurers, Messrs. Edward Caffin and William Lockhart, drew up a balance sheet, which showed, £616 1s. 7d. collected at the several places of worship in the neighbourhood ; £930 1s. 8d. from individuals ; £150 from trustees of Lewisham Charities ; £52 10s. from the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers ; £26 6s. from Phoenix Gas Company ; and £16 18s. 6d. from collecting boxes ; making a total receipt of £1792 6s. 9d. Of this amount, £1321 10s. 9d. had been distributed in the Lewisham district ; £201 8s. in Ladywell ; £174 6s. in Lee, in addition to £50 given by the Right Hon. Earl Northbrook to his tenants in Weardale-road and Robertson-street ; £2 4s. 5d. to Eltham ; £18 to Greenwich ; £10 10s. was given to a fund being raised for the widow of the late Mr. Harding, who lost his life through the effects of the floods ; £51 4s. 10d. was expended on disinfectants, and £58 2s. 9d. in incidental expenses, but the utmost impartiality was exercised, and each case relieved was investigated by committees of gentlemen of position and repute in the neighbourhood.

The balance sheet certainly speaks well for the careful economy with which the committee disbursed the money of the subscribers, amongst the large number of persons who were claimants for relief. The task was not only troublesome and laborious, but a difficult and delicate one : and it was scarcely to be expected that they should escape censorious criticism, and it is only to be wondered at that there was not more grumbling than has been the case. Since the days of the Church of Jerusalem, or since the Fall of Man, it has been found impossible to satisfy a number of applicants in the distribution of an eleemosynary fund, and this case has furnished no exception. As we have said, the sum contributed was a very liberal one, but it did not represent one-eighth part of the damage done, and was really only intended for the relief of those who were most helpless under the misfortune. There were a very considerable number of sufferers ill able to bear the loss, whose self-respect prevented them from looking for aid for money intended only for the destitute. It is a grave fact, that we know nothing of the hour when Lee and Lewisham district may be visited with another similar or more destructive inundation, and it is to be hoped this reminder may have the effect of stimulating efforts effectually to guard against the recurrence of such disasters this fund was meant to mitigate.

These floods have been from time immemorial, especially in the lower district of Lee and Lewisham. After severe storms, now there

are so many new hard roads and asphalte paths, the whole of the storm water rushes in a torrent into the valley of the Quaggy and Ravensbourne, with a mighty roar, carrying with it fences and the very gardens from the houses adjacent, and, when the water subsides leave papered walls covered with mud and slime, and spoilt carpets and furniture.

Many incidents might be related of these remarkable floods. Many of the suffering poor applied to the Lewisham Union, from the various parishes, for medical relief. After the waters subsided, the basement floors of the small cottages were very damp and unwholesome, so that many poor persons had rheumatism and fevers, and several died in consequence.

The formation of the Lewisham Union was in 1836. Until the time of Henry VIII. the poor subsisted entirely upon private benevolence. It was then enjoined that there should be systematic maintenance of the aged poor. In 1601 overseers of the poor were appointed, authorizing the erection of poor-houses, and taxing householders with a poor's rate. Other statutes followed, which were finally consolidated by the Act of 1834, which Act first instituted Poor Law Commissioners, who were, in 1847, superseded by Commissioners and a Poor Law Board, to whom all powers and duties of the former body were transferred. Inspectors were appointed, and provisions made for the visitation of the several Unions.

Lewisham Union, in 1836, included Lee, Eltham, Charlton, Plumstead, also the hamlet of Mottingham, and the liberty of Kidbrook. The number of poor in Lee was then very small, compared with those at the present time, and who are still increasing, owing to so many small houses being erected at Lee Green and Bromley-road, for the labourers.

The following is a return of the quarterly abstract, showing the number of poor persons who were receiving relief in and out of the workhouse, for the quarter ending June, 1838 :—Lee parish, four poor in the house and twenty-six out, cost of maintenance, £78 8s. 7½d. ; Lewisham, 321 poor, cost £638 1s. 2½d. ; Charlton, fifty-four poor, cost £137 14s. 5d. ; Eltham, 101 poor, cost £244 17s. 5d. ; Mottingham three poor, cost £8 6s. 5d. ; Kidbrook, three poor, cost £5 5s. 7½d. ; Plumstead, 102 poor, cost £278 1s. 1½d. Total cost for all the parishes, £1390 14s. 11d.

In consequence of a new Union house being erected at Woolwich, in the year 1868, the parishes of Plumstead, Charlton, and Kidbrook were separated from Lewisham Union and added to Woolwich Union, in order that some of the wealthy parishes should be amalgamated with the poorer ones in that Union, to sustain part of the heavy burden of expenses incurred in the building and establishment charges. Lee and the remaining parishes in the Union were sorry to lose their old friends the parish of Charlton and Kidbrook who had been associated with them so many years in various committees on parochial affairs; but could not express so much regret for the severance of the parish of Plumstead, as some of the members were, at times, obstructive to any improvement deemed necessary for the comfort of the poor and public at large. However, the room was much required in the Union house after that period; for pauperism has been very much on the increase year by year, in the Lewisham Union, owing chiefly to the rapid increase of the building of so many labourers' dwellings in the neighbourhoods of Sydenham,

Forest Hill, Lee, Eltham, and Mottingham, which has induced a great migration of poor from distant parishes, in order to be near their employment.

The whole area of the Union, as now formed of the parishes of Lewisham, Sydenham, Lee, Eltham, and the hamlet of Mottingham, comprises 11,436 acres; its valuation for 1880 stands at gross £631,034, and the net at £523,664 rateable value. Population nearly double from the last census, when it stood at 51,557 souls; the indoor poor in the house, 110 men, 105 women, and sixteen children, also 147 children sent to the Annerley Schools, for the purpose of being instructed in various trades and as general servants.

The following is the cost of provisions and necessities, comparing the year ending Lady-day, 1870, with the year ending Lady-day, 1880 :

1870,	cost of provisions, &c.,	£2402;	number of inmates,	199	per day;
1880,	do.	do.	£3262;	do.	do.
				222	do.

The number of casual vagrant paupers averages about thirty per day. On Christmas-day, 1879, there were 232 inmates of the Union, who sat down to the very ancient English fare of roast beef and plum pudding, provided for dinner, by Mr. James Franklin, the master, and Mrs. Mary Salter, matron. One pint of porter, also tobacco and snuff, were given to each adult, and oranges, nuts, and other refreshments to the children; for supper, half-pound of plum cake and tea. Lady Jamieson, of Lee, sent a supply of letters on behalf of the "Hospital Pillow Mission," to be placed as a surprise on the pillow of each inmate on awaking on Christmas morning.





CHAPTER VI.

THE Village of Charlton—Horn Fair : its Traditional Origin—Charlton House, Past and Present—The Parish Church—Monuments to the Departed—The Vaults the Sepulchre of Eminent Men—The Newton Family—The Pedigree of the Wilson Family, as published in the "Proceedings of the Sussex Archaeological Society."



CHARLTON adjoins Blackheath, and is a pleasant well-built village, inhabited by a number of noble and genteel families, with beautiful mansions, commanding a fine view of the country and Thames. In the time of the Saxon Prince Edward, it was called Corleton, *i.e.* the town of husbandmen ; or Churl, as it was termed in old English. It was valued at £7. Two brothers, Godwin and Alward, held this land from the Saxon Prince as two distinct manors.

Until 1872 there was a fair held here annually on St. Luke's Day, called Horn Fair, at which rams' horns, and all sorts of useful articles and toys made of horn were sold. It formerly consisted of a riotous mob, who, after a printed notice was read, dispersed through the towns and villages round about, meeting again at a place called Cuckold's-point, near Deptford, and marched from thence in procession through that town and Greenwich to Charlton, with horns of various kinds upon their heads. These assemblies were infamous for rudeness and indecency. In the year 1768 this procession was partly discontinued. Of the origin of this fair, tradition says:—"That when King John resided at Eltham, 600 years ago, a miller, living near Charlton, had a wife who was a celebrated toast round the neighbourhood, and the King having heard the report of her beauty, determined to convince himself of its truth, by paying her a visit ; as he was hunting one day with some of his nobility, he took occasion to separate himself from their company, and rode immediately to the miller's, where, under pretence of being much fatigued, he requested a little refreshment, which was instantly complied with by the miller's wife, and who desired him to alight from his horse. The miller, supposed to be from home, unexpectedly entered his own house at a time when he could convince himself of the king's guilt and his wife's unfaithfulness. In the first transports of his passion, the miller would have instantly slain the king, had not he (the king) immediately discovered himself, and begged his life ; and in order to make some reparation for the injury that he had done him, he pledged himself to make a grant in the miller's favour, of as much land as he could encompass within his sight from the situation where he then stood ; and the miller at that instant looking towards the metropolis, by the water-side, his view was terminated by that point of land opposite Limehouse, which is to this day called 'Cuckold's-point.'"

Such is the traditional report given us in history ; and in memory of this grant, Horn Fair was established for the sale of horns and all sorts of goods made of that material. A sermon also is preached in the

parish church on the fair day, 18th October. This fair was formerly held on the green, in front of Charlton House, before it was enclosed, in the year 1819, to make the addition to the lawn in front of the ancient entrance gate and noble trees. The fair was much patronised by the elite of all the parishes in the neighbourhood, until its removal to a field in the lower part of the village; splendid carriages with whole families and livery servants attended on the first day, from 2 to 4 o'clock, before the lower order of persons assembled, and many ladies on horses with pack saddles or pillions, from whence came a popular rustic song as follows :—

“As I was a riding to Horn Fair,
 So green were the fields and so cold was the air,
 I met a pretty damsel riding on a grey mare;
 I asked this young damsel for to take me with her :
 ‘O no, O no, I cannot, sir, although I much deplore,
 For my father he will scold me, and will never let me ride on the grey
 mare any more.’”

It was the custom at this season of the year, when nature assumed a more gloomy appearance, when she had lost her beauty, for the gardeners and husbandmen to plant and sow about the autumnal equinox, in order to be assured of a happy influence with regard to the future prospects of abundant crops; and it used to be said “Plant out your cauliflowers and summer cabbages, sow your seeds, and go to Horn Fair.” The autumnal warmth having departed, cold weather generally prevailed, and early snow storms at times enveloped the gingerbread stalls and tents, so much that on 18th October, 1811, the weight of snow caused them to fall on their occupants. Snow fell also in October, 1820, 1821, 1826, and 1830; as early as 5th October in the last-named year. There was a heavy fall of snow, four inches deep, on the 20th October, 1880.

“Fallow, awhile, the fields in mute repose
 Await the sower : but the ringing flail
 Wakes up the echoes with measured blow,
 And bids the mill revolve with creaking sail.
 Within the forest range the axe again
 Adds many merry cadence to the woodman’s strain.”—GOLDSMITH.

Charlton Church is dedicated to St. Luke; and was valued in the King’s books at £10 7s. 8d. It was surrendered to the Crown, with the Manor of Charlton and the rest of the possessions of the Monastery of St. Saviour’s, Bermondsey, to King Henry VIII., and has remained part of the royal demense. King James I. granted it, with the Manor, to Sir Adam Newton, Dean of Durham, and Tutor to the Prince of Wales, in 1607, who built Charlton House in the same reign, and which forms a rectangle, with projections at the end of each front, crowned with turrets, and an open balustrade going round the summit of the whole; the centre projects, and the entrance is ornamented with Corinthian columns. The interior of the house is elegantly fitted up, the gallery is a spacious apartment, and formerly contained some good paintings, chiefly portraits.

Sir Adam Newton, who designed to have the church enlarged and beautified, but died before he could accomplish his intention, left the management to his trustees, who most amply fulfilled that trust; for they rebuilt the greater part of it, and erected a new steeple, furnishing it with a good peal of bells, and decorated it so handsomely, both within

and without, that when complete, in the year 1620, it surpassed most churches in this part of the country.

The church contains several handsome monuments, amongst which there is, on the south side of the altar, a man in armour, life-size, to the memory of the Hon. Brigadier Richards, who was Surveyor General of Ordnance, died 1721, aged 48; and, on the north wall, a stately monument for Lady Pickering, daughter of Sir John Pickering, and wife of Sir Adam Newton, who was afterwards buried near it, in 1629. In the vaults below, lies Sir William Congreve, the inventor of the rockets which bear his name; he died in 1814. Also the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, who was assassinated by John Bellingham, in the lobby of the House of Commons, on the 11th May, 1812. In the churchyard, close by the porch, lies buried Mr. Edward Drummond, who was shot near the Houses of Parliament, in January, 1843, in mistake for Sir Robert Peel, then Prime Minister, whose private secretary he was.

The Newtons were of an ancient Cheshire family, who settled in Sussex, about the time of Edward IV. Another descendant of that line possessed the house and estates of East Mascalls, which numbers Sir Isaac Newton among its sires.

Charlton House came into the occupation of the Wilson family, from the Maryons, who became connected with our county; but whose ancient settlement was originally at Elton, in Yorkshire, so far back as 1250; and afterwards at Paxhill, in Sussex, one of those ancient family seats, as Camden quaintly called it "A brave building that stood on an eminence, commanding a fine view, boldly fronting the west, defying the winds which blow from that quarter." It was a prevalent notion in those days that the south wind was unkind, viz.: draweth sickness; the north wind, on the contrary, as a friend, maketh all again clear.

In those buildings at Paxhill was a large lofty hall and kitchen, with immense fire places, the most important features in the hall they lived in; and there, with their kinsmen, retainers, and servants, they dined and supped, and many of their followers, filled with beef and ale, slept upon the rush-strewn floors; as for a comfortable fireside and quiet room, they never dreamed of such a thing. They fed the cattle during the summer months, so that before winter set in there was a great destruction of animals. Tusser says:—

"At Hallow-tide slaughter time entereth in,
And then does the Husbandman's feasting begin."

The diet of their poor neighbours in winter was very low. They mostly lived on coarse rye bread and salted fish; the latter being stacked up between layers of pea straw for winter use. Tusser says:—

"Choose skilfully salt fish, not burnt at the stone;
Buy such as be good, or else let it alone;
Get home what is bought, and go stack it up dry
With pease-straw between it the better to lie."

This diet fully accounts for those diseases to which they were subject, particularly leprosy, as the many leper-houses in England were sufficient to show.

Those who could afford it, varied their diet of salt meat as best they could, mostly with stews. They had their fishponds, such as present themselves as we enter the gate at Paxhill, in which were stored those quiet fish, carp and tench. Rabbits were a great resource; hence, the warren was a constant appendage; pigeons, too, were much depended

upon, and large dovecots of cruciform build, rose near the old mansions, having no less than 2500 cells for pigeons. Such vast flocks are a strong proof of the importance that was attached to them as an article of food.

For the following long pedigree of the Wilson family, the writer is indebted to the kindness of a friend who has furnished him with a copy of the family records, collated from original manuscripts by the late Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, eighth baronet, of Charlton House, for the Sussex Archæological Society.

Many of this long pedigree of the Wilson family for several years were subject to hardships and a chequered life; other members, in many instances, were loyal and remarkable for their talent. One of the most distinguished of their line was Thomas Wilson, doctor of laws of the University of Padua, Master of St. Catherine's Hospital, and, though a layman, afterwards Dean of Durham. Queen Elizabeth selected him as an able man to do her service; and sent him, as her ambassador, to Mary Queen of Scots, and to the Low Countries; and appointed him one of her Secretaries of State, in which office, it is said, "three things he combined—quick dispatch and industry, constant intelligence and correspondence, a large and strong memory;" he had a peculiar knack of politeness and artificial nourishing and entertaining of hopes, and keeping men in suspense as an antidote against poison of discontent, a lesson which he had learned from his great mistress. Dr. Wilson was the author of several works; he was thrown into prison at Rome for some free opinions contained in the "Art of Rhetorick;" "The Rule of Reason;" and a work on "Usury." He was tried for heresy, but he stoutly maintained his Protestant principles; and when pressed to submit himself to the Holy Father and College of Cardinals, he refused to make any submission. At length, being without hope of life, he was rescued by main force (an example hardly to be found) by the citizens of Rome. He died in 1581, and was buried in St. Catherine's, leaving this conclusive character behind him: "that although he made not so much noise as other men, yet he effectually promoted the three main supporters of the nation—its native commodities, its artificial manufactures, and its vecture and carriage."

He left one son, Nicholas, of Sheepwash, in the county of Lincoln, who married a daughter of William Heneage, Esq., of Benworth, by whom he had two sons, Charles and Thomas. Charles was a major of horse in the service of King Charles, and fell at the battle of Naseby Field, at the early age of twenty-six.

Another member of the family, "Master John Wilson, Esq."—as was the custom in those days to call Esquire—settled in Sussex, at Searles, in the parish of Fletching, in 1589. He was the son of John Wilson, of Tockwith, near York, and followed the profession of the law, in London. Having the management of the property of Richard Leach, Esq., a Sussex gentleman of fortune, having large estates in Kent, Hampshire, and Sussex, he was induced to purchase land there by this connection. He married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Gardener, Master of the Fine Office. She was a lady of very high spirit, several of whose letters are preserved, and they are very amusing; but, having been written under a sense of fancied wrong, they gave vent to her feelings in terms too coarse and strong for modern ears. After his marriage he removed to Holmesdale, a place belonging to Sir Richard Michelbourne (described by one of the family, who wrote the chronicles

of the Wilsons in an after age). Whilst he was living here, Mr. Wilson, with several others, became the proprietor of iron furnaces at Ashurst and Cowden, in Kent, also at Hartfield, in Sussex, where, by his agents, great quantities of iron were cast and converted into guns and other implements of public utility. He afterwards became connected with the Earl of Argyle and Sir George Hay, in Argyleshire. Unfortunately, the Scotch speculation proved a very unprofitable one, and he was glad to escape from his northern friends with the loss of above £500.

Six years afterwards, says the family chronicler, a very memorable affair occurred to him. Sir Christopher Nevill, Knight of the Bath, direct ancestor of the present Lord Abergavenny, wishing to purchase some estates in the neighbourhood of Sheffield, applied to Mr. Wilson for his advice; and was thus enabled to discover some frauds which had been practised upon him, by which Mr. Wilson drew upon himself the ill will of some mean persons, who circulated causeless and scandalous reflections on Mr. Wilson's worth. A certain fellow, John Tye, the most notorious of his slanderers, was selected for punishment. Mr. Serjeant Amherst had to vouch Mr. Wilson's gentility, as this was not his own county, and his descent was not so well known by all the justices, which in those days was much regarded and esteemed. He applied to the Earl of Nottingham, and the following letter written by the Earl to the Earl Marshal of England, was the result of his application:—

“After my hearty commendations, this is to certifie you that the bearer I know to be a gentleman well descended from an ancient family, and, ever since I came to be an Earl, he was, and yett is towards me in place of an Esquire; and so in his port and carriage, where he liveth, wherefore it much distastes me that soe base a fellow, as I know Tye to be, should go abroad to disparage and disgrace him with his foull mouth and slanderous tongue; you knowe how irksome it is for a gentleman to be abused by a clowne.”

Mr. Serjeant Amherst, Mr. Thos. Challoner, and Mr. Anthony Fowle were appointed by the Earl Marshal to enquire into the case; Tye, as might easily be supposed, was directly afraid that he would be soon convicted. He begged for mercy, and was forgiven, upon condition that he made his humble submission and a public recantation of the calumny before the inhabitants of the parish, in the porch of the church at Fletching. The reproachful words which gave rise to all this matter were:—“As for this Wilson, I am as good as he is; nobody knows where he came from,” accompanied by some very coarse and offensive terms of contempt.

The dignity of the Wilsons was established in the following year, by a commission granted by his Majesty to the Provincial King-at-arms, the clarencieux, Sir Richard St. George, Knight, to visit the county and take an account of all families of the nobility and gentry of the county, lawfully bearing arms, in the year 1634, also to take notice of all such persons who bore arms that had no right to be so called a gentleman or esquire, according to the laws of the land. According to the words of the commission of this visit those who had no lawful right were made infamous; their names were posted up in the market places of the chief towns, stating they were not what they were called, according to the laws of honour and the Earl Marshal's authority. Mr. Wilson's birth, descent, and degree were solemnly allowed and established, together with his coat armour, belonging to his ancestors. Upon this coat-of-arms is

evidence of its antiquity : A wolf rampant (natural position when seizing its prey) ; and in chief in the upper part of the shield, three estoiles (or stars), for the heralds, sable (black) represents the night. "Here 'tis so, for sable or black represents the night, so that by this colour the stars are seen to advantage, and it is then the roaming wolves seek their prey."

This good gentleman died in 1640, at the age of 75, and great was the ceremonial of his funeral. Twelve escutcheons of his arms, and the thirteenth of his coat and crest, all that the laws of heraldry allowed to a private gentleman under the degree of a knight, were carried before the hearse ; 150 pairs of gloves were distributed to the mourners ; and, by the light of fifty torches, the long procession wound its way at night time, from Sheffield-house, through the park, to the church at Fletching, where he was buried in the chancel, close to his own pew door. "He was," says our old authority, "of a nature formed for action, a genius very enterprising, a person of great capacity in business, and in the affairs of life very active and industrious, and of great dispatch." When he visited London "his attire was costly and magnificent ; his coat lined with velvet which cost him £10; his silk stockings, for one pair £1 15s. ; and two yards of broadcloth, at 11s. per yard, were worked up into a coat, trimmed with lace-silk and gold lace ; and his jerkin and his scarf with sword and dagger were worth a copyhold."

His eldest son, Charles, was a youth of great promise, and in 1621, being designed for the study of the laws, according to the custom of the age, was entered at Clifford's-inn ; but he had not been in London a twelvemonth before he became infected with that fatal distemper, the smallpox, with which he was seized at Godstone, on his way to his father's house ; there he and the servant who was sent to take care of him both died and were buried the following day, in the chancel of the church there.

His second son, John Wilson, was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Amongst the articles provided for his outfit there were a violet-coloured or purple gown, and a holland surplice. His father designed him for the bar, but he chose the church for his profession, and became Rector of Arlington. He was, in Cromwell's time, complained of for his scandalous life and manners, and was very justly turned out of his living. He married Cicely, daughter of Francis Shirley, Esq. ; but died, without children, in the year 1649.

Another younger son of Mr. Wilson did not escape the contagion of the universal rage for gaming, and for extravagance in dress, which prevailed in the time of Elizabeth, and was carried even to greater excess than in the days of James and Charles I. Francis Wilson addressed many letters to his father ; in one of them, written from Lewes, he says :—"I must confesse, for such kind and indulgent parents—too, too careful for such a son as I am—I do resolve in myself not to use that tormenting life of a gamester any more ; I avow it was more my miserable destiny and God's appointment, than any desire in me." The next letter was written about a year later, from Kildare-house, Ireland, August, 1633 :—"Most kind and loving father, let heaven assist me in the remembrance and acknowledgement of your most unspeakable expressions of your fatherly love and bounty, being unable to pay my tailor's bill, and threatened with arrest. But for this" he adds, "I had come over the water for your blessing ; the hope that I have it, and heaven's best performance, hath conveyed me to the coast of Dublyn, in Ireland. It hath pleased God so to befriend me as to make me knowne to my

Lord of Kildare, and to find such favour at his lordship's hands as to make me groom of his bedchamber, and nearer to himself, soe that I dought not to reape benefit, credit, and preferment in his service. Therefore I pray you to bestow £20 more on me as soon as you possibly can, and lay out £10 in a scarlet coate, a slashed white sattin doublet, scarlet pair of hoase, a pair of silk stockings, and half-a-dozen shirtes. Pray, good sir, doe as I entreate you, and you shall think it the best money you ever bestowed on me. I borrowed £20 of Mr. Ralph Ramsden, which I desire you to paye." The money and the fine clothes arrived, but in the meantime he had quarrelled with his patron and parted from him. He tells his father :—"My Lord of Kildare has been unreasonable, requiring service not fit for any gentleman to perform, and violating his promisses. Moreover I must tell you that my tallent in lying here soe long, at a great charge, is nearly gone, so that I desire you, if you tender my welfare, to renew my store. There is noe newes here but that my lord deputy governs with dread and respect, both of gentry and commonalty." Signing himself "Your honest but poore sonne, FRANCIS WILSON. Dublin, February 29th, 1634."

After many disappointments, he determined to enter as a volunteer into the service of the Hollanders (the refuge of many other gallant English and Scotch adventurers), engaging in their long wars with Philip of Spain. His military career, which lasted five years in the armies of the Dutch and Swedes, was one continual hardship and disappointment. In his passage to Holland, when off Flushing, the ship was boarded by a man-of-war from Dunkirk; he was taken prisoner, and carried to Ostend, and being promised his freedom speedily, he writes to his father to say,—“I hope in God, I shall doe well, I fear nothing, vale.” These cheery words had scarcely been written, when the Ostenders took from him and his fellow prisoners their money, coats, and swords, and almost all they had. “They detained us eight days, soe that wee were forced to pawne all the residue of our cloathes, compelling those that had money to pay for those that had none.” Wilson made his escape by means of an Englishman, who had a ship lying at Newport; they passed through the Dunkirk fleet as it lay at anchor during the night, and arrived safely at Rotterdam, from whence he went to the Hague. On December 2nd he writes to his father :—"I came there and delivered my letter to my Lady Goring, who used me very kindly, and would have me stay to supper; but I thanked her, and did for that night take my leave. The Queen, by her solicitor, who was with Lady Goring, heard that an English gentleman was taken by the Dunkirkers, and asked where he was, soe that I could see her, and that it was fitt I should buy me a sworde and belt, and make myself handsome; soe I was driven to buy myself a hat, a clean shirt, bandes and ruffs; I put on my scarlet suit, and went and kissed the queen's hand and the princes' and princesses' hands; and the queen did discourse with me, and I stayed about an hour. The night following, I supped with my Lady Goring, at her own table; and the coronel's captayne being in towne, my lady did speake to him in my behalf, and he saluted me very kindly, and bade me go to his ayncient, at Dorte; when I go to the company I shall be admitted a gentleman of the same, and I dare say the poorest one there." He concludes with a request to his father to send him £10 and his Bible, "which will be found in my trunke, and some history books, that might serve to better my knowledge and pass away my time in garrison. Because this is my second year's service, I desire to go

accordingly furnished into the field like a gentleman, that I may not disparage my coronel for bestowing it." His father writing to his eldest son, says:—"Let the coronel understand that I will allow my son Francis 4s. every eight days, to be added to his paye; if it please God to grant him a religious harte, I would have him live like a gentleman, for the good of himself and also for the reputation of his family." Much need there was for such comforts.

In a letter to his brother, Mr. William Wilson, gentleman of the horse to the Earl of Suffolk, Suffolk House, Charing Cross, he speaks "of dreadful marches they had made, such as the oldest soldier in the army had never seen or felt the like; cold, hunger, misery, and disease, the poor soldiers endured, of which had caused a multitude of them to starve and perish. Our first march," he writes, "was from Virmingham to Maestrike, where we met 27,000 foote and 6,000 horse of the King of France, who had come to ayde the Prince of Orange. We first marched to a towne called Teenen, which the States and French tooke, plundered, and burnt, and used such murderous cruelty and inhumanity, that is beyond exposure and beliefe, taking the infants out of their mothers' arms and dashing out their braynes, and killing their mothers, not sparing goods or churches. From thence we marched to Louvain, in Flanders, where we lost many men." Shortly after this, he was attacked by a burning fever and pleurisy, consequent upon fatigue and unwholesome food, and very nearly died. He returned for a short time to England to recruit his health, as he was laid up with a severe wound in the head, received in a quarrel with a company of "Dutch villains," as he calls them. The letter concludes with the usual application to which, in all ages of the world, fathers have been subject:—"You knowe," he says, "though £20 per annum mayntayne a man when well in health, yet if he be hurte, sike or lame, as many times falleth out with soldiers, it will be very hard for him to subsist on." He afterwards joined the Swedish army, but here his evil fortune followed him, the force to which he was attached was attacked on its march at a town called Shettenpen, most of the men were killed, and he was taken prisoner. "When I was taken prisoner," he says, "I was with my captainye and lieutenant, a corporal and some musqueteers, on the top of the Port Tower, which we kept all that night when the town was taken; but the next daye, on the promise of good quarter, we yealded to the enemy. I was carried whithersoever the regiment went, and now abideth in Lure Westphalia." He tells his father that unless a ransom is paid, which will cost 100 guilders, he must turn and serve the emperor, for they gave him "nothing to eate but bread and water, and that very sparingly." The ransom was paid, and he came back to England.

Upon the breaking out of the troubles in Scotland in 1636, he and his elder brother accompanied the king to Berwick. He calls upon his father to come forward handsomely:—"I desire to be furnished in all poynts in a warlike equipage, that soe I may fight the Lord's battle with a good courage, and return victorious." These cheering prospects of that expedition, ended, as is well known, in the disgraceful rout of the English at Newburn, and the occupation of Newcastle by the Scotch. There being no further occasion for his services at home, Francis Wilson, by his brother's assistance, was again fitted out, and this time joined the French army, then engaged at the Siege of Arras. And this is all we know of his military career; for it does not appear that either he or his

brother were much engaged in active service in the Civil Wars. In 1643, however, we find him a prisoner in the Gatehouse, and thus addressing his brother :—"I thanke you for your advice and money. I had been discharged upon my several petitions to Parliament, if the rogues had dealt trewly with me. I shall not fayle to see you as soon as I am out of prison. I acknowledge the receipt of £5, and rest your loving brother, FRANCIS WILSON.—From the Gatehouse."

It appears, however, from the following passage in Dugdale's *Troubles of England*, that he had been present at the Battle of Edgehill, and the cause of his imprisonment is there explained :—"To the end their party took care to suppress any bad tidings, and to puff up the people with strange imaginations of victory and conquest, by producing forged letters, as was manifest in the commitment of certain persons to prison, which came from Kington Battle, and reported the very truth of the King's success, Captn. Wilson, Lieutenant Witney, and Mr. Banks, who were all sent to the Gatehouse."

The last days of Francis Wilson will not be read without some feeling of interest. In September, 1653, he wrote this last letter to his brother :—"On Wednesday last I wrote to you for £5, but whether I shall live to see it or not, God knows ; but whether I doe or not is not so much questionable, for I conclude myselfe not a man for this world, wherefore I humbly entreate you that you will be helpful to my dear wyfe for the bringing up of my daughter, and herein doe as the Almightye shall direct you ; it is an act of pitye ; and being the request of your dyeing brother, and the last, I believe, that ever I shall make to you, I hope you will accomplish it with cheerfulness, which is prayed and earnestly desired by your dyeing brother, FRANCIS WILSON." His forebodings were true, as the following letter shows :—"Worthy Sir,—It pleased God, on the 23rd August last, early in the morning, to deprive you of a loving brother, and me of a deare and tender husband ; he died very penitent, and I doubt not but the Almightye hath received his soul into the armes of His mercie. He desired that his body might be buried at the old church in Rood's Lane, London, a place which he much honoured for the sake of those worthy divines he often heard there. I take my leave of you, craving your answer, and conclude, a disconsolate widow, MARY WILSON. Sepr. 1658."

[We have given a long history of the above Francis Wilson, in consequence of his long career of vicissitudes of this mortal life, as reported in old manuscripts.]

Mr. William Wilson, the third son of John Wilson, who eventually became his heir, was born in 1605. He was placed early in life in the household of the Earl of Suffolk, and filled the office of Master of the Horse to that great nobleman. We may imagine the hearty good will with which he must have executed the following commission from his patron's daughter, the Lady Katherine Howard :—"Mr. Wilson,—I write to you about a saddel, which my lord bid me send you, to speake to Mr. Moore to furnish you with things for it. I would have it made of vilvet, with a small gold fringe about the seat ; and the cage, which should come no lower than the leather uses to come, and a light bite, and a cross of woelen girths. You knowe better than I can direct howe I should like to have it made for a hunteinge sadel ; and if you can find a horse that may bee for my turne—for this country will afford none—my lord would have you buy me one, if you can get money for it ; for I am forste eather to goe daile in the coche, or stay at home

when they all go a hunteinge. I pray, if my Lady Arundell be in towne, do me the favour to see her from mee. My ante Howard hath a good piece of clothe for you, and wished you at her house, where we were very much made of. Your friend, K. HOWARD. Lulworth Castle, July 12th."

Soon after the death of his father he married a daughter of Mr. Haddon, a rich merchant of London, and of an old family long seated in a place of the same name in Northamptonshire. Soon after their marriage they removed to Eastbourne Place, which his wife's step-father, Dr. Burton first relinquished and afterwards sold to him. An old account book states its rental at "£999 a year, 3 lbs. of pepper, and 1 lb. of cumin seed." The last two items are set down to be worth £25 a year; and the following additional particulars of the property are not without their interest:—"There belongeth to the said manor, wreck of sea the space of four miles, also wayfes and strays, all which may happen to be worth £10,000 in an hower, as it hath been in other places on the coast; but the meanest year's we have it is worth £30. Item: There belongeth to the said manor one warren of conies worth £40 a yeare. Item: The royalty of hawking, huntinge, fishing, and fowling; we take yearly twelve dozen sea-gulls, worth 30s. per dozen, £18; besides puetts and sea-pyes. Item: The lord of the manor of Eastbourne hath 700 acres of ground which have long since been overflowed by the sea, which in summer will keep 200 swyne and 300 sheepe; with two great ponds of carpe and good fish."

Excepting the Battles of Hastings and Lewes, Sussex has been as little disturbed by wars as any county in England, and any one disposed to be quiet during the conflict between the King and Parliament, might manage to do so. This was generally the case with Mr. Wilson; but loyalty was put to the test at the time of the meditated escape of Charles I. from Carisbrooke Castle. He was entrusted with the important secret of what was intended. A letter sent to him by an express from the Earl of Dorset, with a little picture of the King enclosed (for fear of discovery), informing him that he should prepare to receive the original; to which he returned this loyal answer, That he would do it with his life and fortune. But this unhappy prince was destined for martyrdom, and all these salutary measures proved ineffectual.

Some years after, Mr. Wilson had a narrow escape. His attachment to the Royal cause was well known. On Good Friday, 1658, a detachment of dragoons, commanded by Lieutenant Hopkins, by order of Cromwell, came to search his house at Eastbourne; the search had scarcely commenced when Mrs. Wilson (her husband being confined by serious illness to his bed) ordered a large pie filled with wheatears to be placed before them for lunch. The officer, so pleased and delighted at the novelty of the pie (to him), merrily insisted that all his military companions should taste of the rare repast, which they did with much jollity, going away much better pleased with their entertainment than the family were with their guests. Whilst they were feasting, Mrs. Wilson (such is her own account of the transaction) went up to her husband; then sick in bed, who desired her to bring him a file of letters out of his closet. He took off one or more, and ordered her instantly to burn them, to stir up the ashes, and then call up the officer, which she accordingly did. No sooner was the officer in the room than he took up the file from which the burnt letters had been taken, and, after a search, complacently wished Mrs. Wilson joy that he had found nothing

according to his expectations; "for had I," said the officer, "found anything according to information given in against him, my orders were to have taken him away."

Independently, and of her own resources, Mrs. Wilson was not without interest with some of the party in power, and to one of these, her cousin, she appeals. After giving an account of the soldiers' visit, she writes:—"They said they came by order from the Protector Cromwell, but what my husband's offence they knew not, which made him extremely wonder, having never acted against the present government. As I am a Christian, he hath lived retired at home to avoid all publicke and private meetings, because he would not give cause for suspicion; and whatever information has been given against him is malicious and false; for as I am a Christian I write nothing concerning him but truth, therefore pray consider the sad condition I and my six children should be left in, if he should be by force taken away and miscarrye. 'Triale of a friende in the time of need,' therefore my husband's desire and my own to you is, that you will make some address to his Highness in his behalf, and so inform him of the condition of his life and body, and procure something under my lord's hand. Sweet cousen, let me begg of the utmost endeavours and importunity with all your friends about his Highness, that he may remain quiet without disturbance. He that came for my husband was the Lieutenant Hopkins of Colonel Inglesby's regiment.—Your obliged kinswoman and servant, MARY WILSON."

Her daughter, then a girl at school at Hackney, thus writes to her:—"Dear Mother,—I have bin at Whitehall to wait on Cousin Gardener, and I see the Lord Mayor's Show; and by her command we saw the protekter lying in state, which is the most stately sight that I ever did see, and which I shall never forget hereafter.—Your most obedient daughter, PHILADELPHIA WILSON."

With regard to this young lady, she promises her mother that she shall receive a frog purse and a table book in the course of a fortnight.

Mr. Wilson, says our chronicler, sensible that his principles rendered him suspected and obnoxious to the prevailing powers, led a more close and wary life, and it was with difficulty he saved his estates from sequestration; but he lived to see the king, with our ancient government, happily restored, which he forwarded to the utmost of his power, and proclaimed it on a grand scale at Eastbourne with the most cordial affection and joy, celebrating that solemnity, amongst other demonstrations, with bonfires on the hillocks between Bourne town and The Place, his seat. Here he had brought out a hogshead of claret and a pipe or two of strong ale, and all loyal people of the town and adjacent neighbourhood were entertained by him. After drinking the king's health, with his lady and children, and the rest of his family, out of pure zeal, and upon their knees, he there publicly declared that now, God be thanked! he thought his estate his own, and he hoped that every man of them around him would think the same.

His lady, to whom he was deeply attached, did not long survive this ebullition of happiness; in 1661 she died. And in trusting the care of his children for education to a clergyman at Fooks Cray, Kent, he thus alludes to his sad loss:—"Sir,—It hath pleased God for my sinnes to take from mee my dear wife, one of the best of women, as being too good for mee. The high character which some of my friends have given of you, makes me deliver all my sonnes to your great care, painful industry, and tuition; not only for learning, but desire that you will

instruct them in the fundamental grounds of the true Protestant religion, as is established by the laws of this kingdom; in which they have had instruction from their religious mother. That God would be pleased to dispense His blessing upon your and their endeavours, is, and shall be, the prayer of WILLIAM WILSON."

In the coat-of-arms of the Wilsons, well do the wheatears deserve a conspicuous quartering. The finest and fattest birds were found on the Downs about Beachy Head, and alas! in far greater numbers than is the case nowadays. They were a great card in Mr. Wilson's hand, which he played freely and ably. Who shall say whether his loyalty or his wheatears had most to do with his elevation to the rank of a baronet, which took place almost immediately after the Restoration? And a costly honour it was in those days, as he paid £1095 for it, that sum professing to be for the maintenance of thirty soldiers of militia, in Ireland, for three years. Certain it is that Charles II. was very fond of wheatears, and equally certain that Mr. Wilson supplied his Majesty very freely.

His nephew, Francis Beard, secretary to the Earl of Northampton, writes to his uncle:—"Hon. Sir,—I acknowledge that both yourself and my good Aunte have bin never wanting heaping favours upon me; more especially, among the rest, in presenting my lord with this noble present, which hath made such a deep impression on his lordship's thoughts on yourself and mee. For our greater honour, his lordship carried your present in his own hands, and presented it to his Majesty, and told his Majesty from whence they came; and his Majesty was pleased to say that he had never eat such fat birds in his life before." On another occasion he writes to say, that "the king had them as from you." Scarcely less grateful was Lady Wilson's step-father, Dr. Burton, Rector of Broadwater, who wrote asking for thirty dozen of them.

"I heare," writes the Earl of Dorset, "that my old friend Dr. Burton is nott at Bourne; but understanding you dwell there, I am hopeful to procure the same friendly respects I was wont to receive from him. My request is, that when wheatears are best, you would, for the short time they last, now and then oblige mee with some of them. I would not bee a beggar, as poor as I am, if they weare provisions to bee bought for money in these parts; but since you are a great, if not sole master of them, I am very willing to bee beholdinge to you, with assurance that whensoever it is in my power, you shall find me Your affectionate friend, DORSET. July 30th, 1646." This was the Earl Dorset who, when young and Sir Edward Sackville, fought the well-known desperate duel with Lord Bruce, in which that nobleman was killed and himself severely wounded.

Sir William Wilson was created baronet 13th Charles II. He appears to have had very delicate health, and on that account he applied to the Bishop of Chichester for permission to eat flesh meat during Lent. The license was readily granted, and the Bishop, feeling the importance of social enjoyment, generously extended the same to his wife and other four persons whom he might wish to ask to dinner.

Sir William is represented as "a person endowed with very good natural parts, who had acquired much knowledge in the business affairs of life, of which he had seen a deal in the Court, the Camp, and the Country; so that he had the reputation of a wise understanding man. To the needy and necessitous he was ever disposed to help, and do good and humane offices to the orphan and poor, several of whom for

years had regular weekly relieve. He was especially bountiful at festival times, particularly at Christmas. He was a good manager as well as a generous gentleman. As to his religion, he was a hearty Protestant, of the Church of England, and took especial care that his children should be brought up in the same religious principles." In the papers of his domestic expenses there are many proofs of his liberality to the poor. Every year during Christmas week 150 were regaled.

His good management and prudent economy is shown in the following letter of his agent, with whom his grandchildren were living:—"London, 16th Oct., 1680. Hon. Sir,—I have been with the man concerning the lamb's wool; he hath promised if you send up two packs of the same fine wool, he will give 7d. a lb. for it; but if your worship's wool doe not prove so fine a sample (which my chapman wishes it may), then he will only give 6d. a lb. for it, that being the market price. I hope your worship will not send up your wool till Wednesday come se'nnight, by reason of fast day next week, which every good Protestant will keepe solemnly. . . . My mistress doth say that when your worship, Sir William Culpepper, Misse Mary, and Misse Judith, your grandchildren were last at your worship's, you was so pleased to bestow on each of your grandchildren half a penny; but as I have not charged the sume of one penny and a halfe, will your worship order me to do the same?—I am, your worship's obedient servant, MATTHEW CROUCH."

The Sir William Culpepper above alluded to was the son of Sir William Wilson's eldest daughter Judith. Her husband, Benjamin Culpepper, had died in her father's lifetime, leaving only one child, this boy. Being left a widow at an early age, she married her second husband Capt. Mason, without the consent or the knowledge of her father, who was so indignant as to refuse to see her. The Duke of York, however, under whom this gallant officer served, stepped in; and the following letter, signed with his own hand, had its due effect:—"Sir William Wilson,—The relation which Capt. Mason hath now unto you, by the marriage of your daughter, makes me willing to tell to you my knowledge of him whilst he had relation to me. He served as my eldest lieutenant in the late wars, and there behaved himself with much gallantry, as he hath done in all other employments in his Majesty's service: soe I thinke your daughter hath made a good choice, and the gentleman deserves your favour.—I am, your loving friend, JAMES."

The following letter, written many years afterwards by one of Capt. Mason's sons, to another head of the Wilson family, gives the issue of this marriage:—"Sir,—I am obliged for your kind enquiry after the small remains of my family. My father had several children by Sir William Wilson's daughter, the late Sir William Culpepper's mother; my brother Christopher, that was cleft down by a pole axe whilst boarding a French man-of-war, was the eldest. I am the only surviving son of Capt. Mason by a third wife; I have one son only, a child four years old; I shall always retain great esteem for a family to which my father was honoured with so near an alliance. . . ."

Little more is said in our family history of Sir William Culpepper, than that he died in London in 1740, unmarried, and was buried at St. James's, Westminster; and with him the male line of that old and distinguished family became extinct. Among the noble knightly houses of England, few ranked higher than that of the Culpeppers. Leeds Castle, standing proudly within its wide moat, near Maidstone, in Kent, was their chief hold; their possessions extended widely over Kent,

Surrey, and Sussex ; and many a belted knight and lady lie mouldering under brass tablets in the church at Ardingley, the parish in which one of their finest seats, that of Wakehurst, is situated. It was of the last of this distinguished race, the grandson of Sir William Wilson, that his step-father, anxious for his welfare, thus wrote to this youth's grandfather :—"Hon. Sir,—I have discoursed with his mother about his speedy going to Eaton Schoole, but I finde they are much more inclinable for a tutor in the house. For my owne part, Sir, I have so great value for your sense and knowledge in the affairs of the world, that I will not and dare not act alone in so difficult and critical a parte. You know that in this month he is fifteen years of age ; and the Culpeppers grow stubbornly ripe betimes. I am fearful of taking a tutor into the house that his mother's blind fondness will much prejudice his learning. I doe fully agree with you that it is quite necessary he should make himself master of the Latin tongue ; it is the key to unlocke the cabbins of all our Christian languages, contaynd in the quintessence of all human learning. I doe easily believe that there are those in Sussex who have insinuated in the mind of your grandson Culpepper ill principles, and my wife tells me that they are Thos. Beard and his wife, Old Freere, more of which my sister Phill. can tell you, and how they got him from my son Fagge, point blank against mother's commands, and told him he was a foole to be governed by his mother or anybody else. Pray let me desire you to send me your opinion whether we had best to send Will to Eaton, or take a tutor in our house.—I am, hon. Sir, your obedient son-in-law, CHRISTOPHER MASON. Greenwich, November, 1634."

Age had not quenched the interest which he felt in his grandson, nor his energy in trying to control and divert him from ill advisers. He tells him "that he had reason to believe that he was addicted to vain pleasures, and to listen to sycophants rather than to submit to any discipline, he calls upon him to give promise in writing to continue two years longer at Eaton, to study close that he may have the Latin tongue fluently as English, and then to up to the Academy in France, to learn the French tongue, and such other exercises as gentlemen are instructed in." And he concludes :—"Submit yourself to the orders of your guardian ; serve God with a perfect heart, and keep orderly company."

Sir William Wilson was the first baronet, created for his loyalty to his King and country. During his long career in life in doing good service in many ways, he saw many changes and encountered many old staunch friends. He died at the patriarchal age of eighty, in the year 1685, beloved and much respected by all.

We are now in history introduced to the second baronet, Sir William, of the Sussex line of Wilsons. He had lately lost his wife, and his brother John thus writes to him the following letter of excellent advice :—"East Grinstead, March, 11th, 1686. Good Brother,—I can no less condole with you in so great an affliction, which God hath been pleased to lay upon you ; and no question but that your wife is in Heaven. My advice to you, in your domestic affairs, is this : Follow as nigh as you can the footsteps of our dear father, neglect not your prayers with your family, and often petition God to shower down His blessings upon you and yours ; if He grant not your petition presently, yet He will give you a patient will. Be sure you keep your children to their books, that they may be taught the fear of the Lord, for they are those for whom you must give an account to God if you neglect your duty in bringing them up, and your servants likewise ; keep them to their devotion on the

Sabbath, if, with David, you intend that you and your house should serve the Lord. Avoid all suits at law with your neighbours or any other persons whatsoever, except in cases of great concern. In small matters, rather lose your just due, than goe suit for it, for it will not satisfy the charges ; and be sure God will avenge your cause, for 'Vengeance is mine, and I will repay, saith the Lord ;' by that meanes you will gaine a contented life to yourself, and love to your neighbours, which was one of our father's chief principles. Be sure to live within compass, rather than above yourself. Remember what our father and his father before him used to say : that he that spent three-parts of his estate should dye a beggar. Call your Bayliffe and your servants that you repose trust in, to a dayly, weekly, and monthly account ; by so doing, you will make them careful to serve you, and more fearful to wrong and cheat you. Your assured and loving brother till death,
JOHN WILSON."

What effect those prudential maxims (such as are not usually offered by a younger to an elder brother, and urged upon him) had, we know not ; certain it is that they were utterly disregarded by some of his successors, and large possessions which had been accumulated by the care and prudence of their fathers (the result of successful speculations in ironworks, or marriages with heiresses) including the fine property at Eastbourne, were, according to traditions of the family, dissipated and lost—those fine estates that the family had been associated with for several generations.

The Rev. Edward Wilson, another son, was, says the writer, one of those primitive and non-juring clergymen of the Church of England on the Revolution. He was born at The Place, in Eastbourne, on the 2nd of July, 1652. He took the name of his godfather, the learned and loyal divine, Dr. Edward Burton. In May, 1670, he was admitted into Queen's College, Cambridge, and lived in the quality of a pensioner, being educated under Mr. Robert Needham, M.A., and Dr. Henry James, both Fellows of the House, and of note for their learning. He was elected Scholar, and took both his degrees of B.A. and M.A. In 1675 he wrote to his father to get the king's mandate for a fellowship. Sir William engaged a friend in his son's service, who, after the usual salutations, says : "My lord Suffolk is at Court, whither I am going to-morrow, and will acquaint him with your request. The Duke of Monmouth is Chancellor, who, I am informed, is the first and properest steps to climb by. I do assure you I will serve you to the best I can.—Your humble servant, Jo. Jeffs. August, 1675."

Better preferment was in store for him, and he became Rector of Blatchington ; but when a majority of those members of both Houses of Parliament, afterwards called Convocation, in the year 1688, not without a warm opposition (on King James withdrawing, or, as others say, being frightened from his metropolis) had voted the throne vacant, and that it should be filled by the Prince of Orange, and when they had taken possession of their father's throne, in consequence thereof, the Rev. Mr. Wilson judged that matters were carried to too great lengths ; and having regard to the allegiance which he had sworn to his undoubted prince, King James, he utterly refused to take the oaths then required to be taken to the new-made king and queen ; as did also divers of his reverend brethren. Mr. Wilson was suspended, and in 1690 was deprived of his living by the new government, one John Hind taking possession thereof on the 18th July in the same year ; after which

the reverend gentleman retired to the parish of Buckstead, in Sussex, and spent the remainder of his days there, never afterwards accepting any preferment in the Church; he died there in 1728, aged 77. He was a firm Protestant, an honest man, and good Christian. He was handsomely interred the night following his decease—his pall supported by six of the clergy—in the chancel of the church, in accordance with his own desire, close to the remains of his wife, who was a daughter of S. Graves, Esq., of West Firle, Sussex, J.P., a gentleman memorable for conducting in safety that great loyal subject, the gallant Marquis of Ormond, from London to Sussex, when he was so vigilantly sought after by the arch-traitor Cromwell, and procuring him a safe passage into France from that coast.

It was to a direct ancestor of the late Admiral Sir Henry Shiffner, Baronet, that Charles II. owed his escape from Brighton after the Battle of Worcester; for such was Captain Tattersall, who conveyed him away in his vessel called the *Happy Entry*, for which he afterwards received a pension of £100 a year, continued for ninety years. A ring, with the portraits of Charles and his Queen, presented by the king to Captain Tattersall, is preserved in the family.

The history of another son, that of Thomas Wilson, the fifth son of Sir William, is singular; and we give it in the words of our chronicler: "An unfortunate accident befel this young gentleman, which, as it is very noteable and extraordinary, it will not be impertinent to relate. When a young man, and in London, about the year 1675, he happened to be out very late one night in the streets, having been at a tavern near Temple Bar, and, being drunk, he lay down on a tradesman's bulk in the street, and there fell asleep; he was seized upon and carried by a gang of kidnappers in that dead sleep, and put on board of a ship in the Thames, which was soon to sayle for the West Indies; there they transported him, and sold him as a slave to a planter in Jamaica, in the northern and most wild uninhabited part of the island. The planter soon died, and left a widow, whom Mr. Wilson served so well that she made him an overseer of a gang of negroes, and her bailiff and steward; and he so far ingratiated himself, and having good parts and an agreeable person, with a good education, that she became enamoured with him, and would have married him; and so warm was she, that he (not affecting to have a coloured lady), to avert her solicitations, had recourse to the expedient of telling her that he was married. However, he continued a considerable time in this servitude, unknown to his family, who had deemed him lost; but he sent them notice as soon as he could in the following letter:—'Jamaica, 17th October, 1675. Hon. Sir,—These may serve to advertise you of my condition; that I am a servant for four years. You are not ignorant of my inability to doe laborious work, especially in this hot country. I humbly crave your assistance in this necessity; for unless you send me money by the first ship, to the value of £20 or upwards, the servitude that is laid upon me will quickly bring me to the grave; and, therefore, as you desire to see me againe, pray fail not to comply with my desire. I am living at the little river in the north side.'

"On the arrival from England of Captain Scarlet, a native of Eastbourne (who had an estate in that island, and who was engaged by Sir William to make himself acquainted with his son's condition and circumstances, and to undertake a journey up the unfrequented part of the island, to the very plantation where he was), he soon espied him,

and presently knew him ; and upon conference with him, he speedily wayted on Sir Thomas Modyford, Bart., Governor under King Charles the Second, and was by him put into a method, and dispatched with money and other requisites for his redemption ; which the Captain, by his prudence, effected, but not without difficulty. As soon as he had paid his ransom, he is said thus to have saluted him : ‘ Sir William and the rest of your family were all well when I left England ; and, sir, I congratulate you upon your freedom.’

“ No sooner did the widow learn that he was a son of a person of quality, discovering too that the story of his marriage was an artifice to deceive her, it is said she burst into a furious passion of rage and anger, swearing that had she known so much before, no money should have bought him. But, however, this and the material parts of this relation are confirmed by the letters of Sir Thomas Modyford to Sir William Wilson, and his son Mr. Charles Modyford ; and afterwards Mr. Thomas Wilson continued a good while with Sir Thomas ; and in gratitude to the hon. baronet, it must be said he took a great deal of care of him, and was very obliging to him in the good offices he did him when he returned to England.” The sum paid for his ransom was £20.

This Thomas Wilson when he returned from his captivity to England married Ann, the daughter of George Courthorpe, Esq., of Whadhurst, and it was his son Thomas who succeeded to the baronetcy, who in the year 1723 sold the property at Eastbourne to Sir Spencer Compton, Speaker of the House of Commons (afterwards Earl of Wilmington).

His son William, born at Eastbourne in 1705, was a hopeful youth, and had offers of places at Court suitable to his birth and quality, which he declined in favour of military employment, and was initiated in the exercises befitting the profession of a soldier, as well as in the accomplishments of a gentleman ; but an early death put an end to the progress he had made on the 23rd January, 1723, having been, on the day before his death, presented to the post of cornet in the Royal Horse Guards. He was interred in the family vault at Eastbourne.

His death carried the title to Thomas, who had married a daughter of Mr. William Hutchinson, of Uckfield, and he was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward Wilson, the fifth baronet.

In the *General Evening Post* of Saturday, October 20th, 1759, there is a rather long obituary notice of Sir Thomas Wilson, Bart., in which much of the genealogy of the family is set forth, very much as it is in the Baronetages. It was supplied by Sir Edward Wilson, F.S.A., and the article attracted the attention of John Wilson of Bromhead. This gentleman, supposing himself to be descended from a branch of the Wilsons of Elton, from whom Sir Edward traced his descent, wrote on the subject to Sir Edward, who replied at considerable length, in a letter dated 18th December, 1759. Mr. Wilson had it directed to him at Bourn Place ; but, Sir Edward says : “ This seat, which is a very fine one, did belong to my family, together with a capital lordship and four other manors, and several other lands and tenements lying adjacent thereto ; the tenements, I mean customary, all fineable at the lord’s will, as heriotable in kind as well for free copyhold ; a free wren by grant free from the Crown ; the wreck of sea by the space of more than four miles under the noted promontory and cliffs adjoining, called the ‘ three Charles’s or Chorles’s ’ and Beachy Head. This seat, with some manors and lands, came to my late father by virtue of entail, whilst a part of it was inherited by the late Sir William Wilson’s sister and heir ;

but a part of this estate coming to my father being encumbered, he was pleased (though against the consent and approbation of the rest of his family) to convey it to the late Earl of Wilmington, whose principal seat it was, and who, before he purchased it, held it by lease from his guardians. He used extraordinary means to persuade and procure him to sell it to himself, leaving no stone unturned to effect it; and well he might, for the description I have now mentioned, and its most delightful situation for prospect and beauty, it may vie with most in this country—the wild sea, the Downs, all at once viewed; also the excellency of that bird, by some called the English ortolan, the wheatear, is famed even to a proverb—a Bourn wheatear being the best of the kind in this county or anywhere. After his death it came to his nephew, the Earl of Northampton, who made his residence in this county, and he dying, his brother, the late Consul Compton, had it, whose son, now Earl Northampton, possesses it, who married the Duke of Beaufort's sister, with whom he got acquainted whilst at Brighthelmstone, in this county, of late so much resorted to for the sea-water, as Scarborough is in your county; and at Bourne Place he lives when in this county. These things in regard to this seat and part of this estate were done whilst I was an infant, which are such that no man (so nearly concerned as myself, on whom it was entailed) could bear regretting; but 'what cannot be cured,' according to common saying, 'must be endured.' Thanks to God, I have some lordships and their demesnes and other lands still left, the remains of a much greater estate, though not so suitable to my rank as I could wish: but as I am a bachelor, the circumstance is an incentive to me (out of a decent regard to decorum in this respect, and at the same time only mindful of my ancestors and posterity) never to think of continuing this line of our family but upon such a foundation in respect of fortune as may be at least somewhat adequate to their condition in other respects."

The passage in respect to Brighton is probably one of the earliest notices we have of the rising popularity of that extraordinary town as a watering-place.

The worthy baronet adhered to his resolution, and died a bachelor not long after the date of this letter, viz., 1st June, 1760.

In a pedigree which Sir Edward sent to Mr. Wilson, he thus describes his mother in a tone of excellent feeling:—"Elizabeth, daughter of William Hutchinson, Esq., of Uckfield, in Sussex, mercer, descended of a good gentlemanly family, bearing arms; but, however this may be, a most virtuous good wife and mother, and (I thank God) now living."

Sir Edward was succeeded in his title and the remnant of his estates by his brother, Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, Colonel of the 50th Foot, Knight of the Shire for the County, and sixth baronet, the gallant soldier who fought at Minden, and great-grandfather to the present Sir Spencer Maryon Wilson, the representative of a long line of ancestors, and tenth baronet in succession to the title.

Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, seventh baronet, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Commander James, Royal Navy. Sir Thomas Maryon died in the year 1824, and was succeeded in his title and estates by his son, Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, eighth baronet and Justice of the Peace for the county of Kent.

Sir Thomas was one of the old bench of magistrates who sat at the Green Man Hotel before the Police-court was established. There was a deal of parochial business and government matters to attend to, in

which Sir Thomas interested himself very much, as he also did in the various charities in the neighbourhood, by granting the use of the park and grounds of Charlton House for fêtes and tournaments for the benefit of the Kent Dispensary and other local charities. Sir Thomas saw many changes during his long career in serving his Queen and Country. He died in the uniform of a West Kent volunteer, in the year 1869, and was the last of the family that was interred in the family vault under the church at Charlton.

He was succeeded in the title to the estates and the baronetcy by his brother, John Maryon Wilson, of Fitz-Johns, Essex, who married Julia, daughter of George Wade, Esq., of Dunmow. Sir John Maryon was a plain, good country gentleman, during his short residence at Charlton House. He died in the year 1874, and was buried in a vault in Charlton Cemetery. He was the ninth baronet.

His son, Sir Spencer Maryon Wilson, succeeded him, being the tenth baronet in succession to the title since the creation of the first baronet, Sir William Wilson (13th Charles II.), who died in 1685.

The long pedigree of this ancient family dates from the year 1250. There were fifteen Mr. Wilsons prior to the baronetcy; the most distinguished of them being the Dr. Thomas Wilson mentioned in the early part of this chapter.

In our next chapter we shall treat of the remainder of Charlton and the estates westwards to Greenwich.





CHAPTER VII.

PLUMSTEAD Board of Works, and Offices—Eastcombe Park—The Woodlands—Mr. Angerstein—George III. at The Woodlands—Mr. Angerstein's Success as an Underwriter—Vanburgh Bastille and Fields—Greenwich Park and Palace—The Royal Owners of Greenwich Palace—Queen Elizabeth and the Citizens of London—A German Baron's Account of Queen Elizabeth's Court—Greenwich Hospital Founded—The Painted Hall—The Uses of the Hospital, Past and Present—The Ranger's House—Greenwich Market—Greenwich Parish Church.

THE local government of our neighbourhood is vested in the Plumstead District Board of Works, whose offices, situate at Old Charlton, were erected on land leased from Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson for seventy years from 1862. These offices are for the transaction of business of the four following parishes and the liberty of Kidbrook, and consists of thirty-eight members, viz. :—for Charlton, nine; Eltham, six; Lee, nine; Plumstead, twelve; Kidbrook, two.

The members for Lee who attend the Board's offices every alternate Wednesday, and the committee at Lee, every alternate Thursday, are : Messrs. Henry Couchman, William Brown, James Richard Lloyd, William Thomas Gates, Francis Hosier Hart, Henry Richard Wright, Frederick Booker, Alfred Cooper Cole, and Benjamin Maller. Medical officer, Mr. Joseph Burton; Surveyor, Mr. Francis F. Thorne; Inspector, Mr. Walter Bridgen.

About half a mile west of Charlton Church is Eastcombe Park, with its fine modern mansion, formerly the seat of the Dowager Countess of Buckinghamshire; the present occupier is Charles Samuel Millington, Esq. This estate was formerly called "Nethercombe," and was an appendage to the Manor of Lewisham, which together with the said manor, was given to St. Peter's Abbey at Ghent. On the suppression of the alien priories, Henry V. transferred it to his new priory at Sheen, where it remained till 23rd Henry VIII., when it was exchanged, and reverted to the Crown, who disposed of this and other lands. Some years after, it became the property of the Sandersons. Sir William Sanderson, created baronet in 1720, lived here; and Lady Sanderson, who survived her husband, died possessed of this property in 1780; when it came to the Right Hon. Frederick Montague, heir-at-law. The mansion commands a most picturesque view of the park, and the river Thames, with all its varied craft.

These grounds are kindly lent by Mr. Millington for the summer exhibition of the Charlton Horticultural Society—a society which the Dowager Lady Wilson has taken much interest in, promoting its welfare in every possible way.

A handsome seat called "Woodlands," lies between Eastcombe and Westcombe Parks, which was built by John Julius Angerstein, Esq., an opulent Russian merchant and underwriter. It is a fine structure, and is elegantly fitted, having a well-chosen collection of pictures; some of these, however, were sold by Mr. Angerstein to the Government in time of George III., one the famous picture "Tragedy and Comedy," by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and a fine painting by Reubens, also one by Vandyck. Mr. Angerstein also had a £2000 note in a gilt frame.

The grounds are delightfully situate and pleasant, and the view of them from the Thames is charming. There is a fine botanic garden, allowed to contain one of the most extensive collections of azaleas, rhododendrons, heaths, and curious plants, in the kingdom.

Mr. Angerstein, in or about the year 1815, employed Mr. Sidery, builder, of Lee, to construct a room heated by hot-air flues, in order to prolong his life; and after the completion of the room, invited the king, George III., to Woodlands, in order to explain to his Majesty how he obtained the comforts of a warm room by means of these hot-air flues instead of an open fire-grate, keeping the heat at 65° Fahr. His Majesty, after inspecting Mr. Angerstein's amateur mode of warming, concluded his visit with expressing the hope that he might live for many years to enjoy the room of his own invention; but, with a gracious bow, he added: "Mr. Angerstein, I prefer for my own part a good old English open fire-stove, with a charming fire of Wallsend coals."

Mr. Angerstein was very fortunate and successful at the beginning of the present century, during the war with France, as an underwriter, insuring the cargoes of merchantmen and traders, who were harassed and plundered by French privateers forming a blockade on the different ports, and discomfiting them on the seas, from one hemisphere to another. On one occasion very grave doubts were entertained about the safe return of a fleet of our traders, which were trebly insured by Mr. Angerstein; but on their leaving Hamburgh with their convoy, when they sighted some French privateers with sails to windward, the captains of our merchantmen adopted a novel plan, and formed in double line as if prepared for naval action, and the weather, being at the time hazy, assisted in deceiving the Frenchmen, who evidently thought it was the English Fleet, and steered away chagrined at the loss of so valuable a prize. Our traders and convoy being well equipped escaped, and arrived safely in the Port of London, much to the interest of Mr. Angerstein, who made a princely fortune on this occasion; and the crews of the fleet received the thanks of the merchants of London.

Whether Mr. Angerstein's hot-air room had the desired effect of prolonging that gentleman's life we know not; but it is a fact that he lived to a very advanced age. He died at Woodlands in 1823, in his ninety-seventh year.

The next place of note adjoining Woodlands is Vanburgh Fields, at the summit of Maize Hill, Greenwich, in which is a house built by the celebrated Sir John Vanburgh, in 1717, in imitation, it is said, of a part of the late Bastille at Paris, in which Sir John was confined for some time. Not far from it are other houses in the same style of architecture which are approached under a gateway of a style to correspond. One of these houses is called The Castle, and was the seat of the late Lord Tyrawley; another is called Ivy House.

On the opposite side of the road is Greenwich Park, which was first walled round with brick by James I., and Charles II. enlarged and planted it further, chiefly with Scotch firs, Spanish chesnuts, elms, and whitethorns. The park was designed by the once famous Le Notre, from Paris, and contains about 200 acres, well stocked with deer, and affords as much variety, in proportion to its size, as any in the kingdom. It is vested in the Crown.

The higher part of the park, adjoining Blackheath, is One-Tree Hill and Observatory Hill, the views from which, particularly the former, are beautiful beyond imagination. The elevation of these hills is so bold,

that the eye rests not upon a gradually falling slope or flat enclosure, but alights at once upon the tops of spreading trees, which grow in knots or clumps out of deep hollows or umbrageous dells. The cattle feeding on the lawns, which appear in breaks among them, seem moving in a region of fairy land. A thousand natural openings among the branches of the trees break upon little picturesque views of the swelling turf, which, when illuminated by the sun, have an effect that is pleasing beyond power of fancy to imagine—this is the foreground of the landscape. A little further the eye falls on the noble Hospital in the midst of an amphitheatre of wood. And beyond the two reaches of the river form the beautiful serpentine which surrounds what is called the Isle of Dogs, and exhibit the floating commerce of the Thames. To the west appears a fine tract of country leading to the capital, which there terminates the beautiful prospect.

The Observatory was erected originally by Charles II. for the use of the celebrated Flamstead, whose name the house retains. He furnished it with mathematical instruments for astronomical observations, which have undergone great improvements, and are said to be the best in Europe. From the meridian of this Observatory all English astronomers and navigators make their calculations; the latitude of its transit room is determined to be $51^{\circ} 28' 40''$ N. After the death of Flamstead, the successive Astronomers Royal were Dr. Halley and John Pound, Esq., both of whom are buried in the same vault in Lee old churchyard.

In the year 1417, Greenwich Manor became vested in Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, who obtained from Henry VI. a licence to fortify and embattle his Manor House, and to form a park of 200 acres, and accordingly he rebuilt the palace, and enclosed the park with oak palings. From the pleasantness of its situation he called it "Placentia," or "Manor of Pleasaunce." After the duke's death, which occurred in 1447, it reverted to the Crown, and became the favourite residence of Edward IV.

The palace was enlarged by Henry VII., and finished by Henry VIII., who was born here, June 28th, 1491. This king, who exceeded all his predecessors in the sumptuousness of his buildings, spared no expense in rendering this palace magnificent. Leland the antiquary, who was librarian to his Majesty, and an eyewitness of its beauties, says:—"In the 19th year of Henry VIII. an embassy was sent over from France, which, in order that it might correspond with our Court in magnificence, consisted of eight persons of high quality and merit in France, attended by six hundred horse, received here by the king with the greatest marks of honour, and entertained in a more splendid manner than had ever been seen before."

The same writer, in his "Itinerary," thus describes the palace and its beauties:—

"Lo! with what lustre shines this wish'd-for place,
Which, star-like, might the heavenly mansions grace.
What painted roofs! what windows charm the eye!
What turrets, rivals of the starry sky!
What constant springs! what verdant meads besides!
Where Flora's self in majesty resides,
And, beauteous, all around her does dispense,
With bounteous hand, her flowery influence.
Happy the man whose lucky wit could frame,
To suit this place, so elegant a name,—
Expressing all its beauties in the same."

Many royal persons have been born in this palace; amongst them Henry VIII., his brother Edmund, and Edward VI.; and Queen Mary and her sister Queen Elizabeth. The latter princess, during her infancy, was often taken to Eltham Palace in order to give her the benefit of the fine bracing air. She grew remarkably fond of Eltham, and resided much there, owing to its proximity to her palace at Greenwich. Queen Elizabeth made several additions to the Greenwich building.

During her Majesty's reign, the Court were at times entertained at Greenwich by her faithful subjects; one memorable occasion being on July 2nd, 1559, when the City of London entertained the Queen there with a muster of each City Company, who sent out a number of men-at-arms, in all, fourteen hundred, to her Majesty's great delight and satisfaction, the expression of which pleased the Citizens as much, and produced a mutual love and affection between them. They marched out of London on the 1st July, in coats of velvet and chains, with guns, morris-pikes, halberds, and flags, over London Bridge to the Duke of Suffolk's Park in Southwark, where they mustered before the Lord Mayor, laying abroad that night in St. George's Fields. The next morning they moved towards Greenwich, to the park, where they stayed till eight o'clock, and then marched down to the lawn in front of the palace, all carrying arms, and the gunners being in shirts of mail.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, the Queen came into the gallery over the park gate, with the Ambassadors, Lords, and Ladies to a great number. The Lord Marquis, Lord Admiral, Lord Dudley, and many other nobles and knights, rode to and fro to view them, and set the two armies in array, to skirmish before the Queen. Then the trumpets began to blow, the drums were beat, and the flutes tuned up. There were three onsets in each battle; the guns discharged on one another, the morris-pikes encountered together with great alarm, and each ran to their weapons again, and fell together as fast as they could in imitation of a close fight. All this while, the Queen and the nobility about her beheld the skirmishing and retreats.

At the finish, Mr. Chamberlain and several Commons of the City, and the visitors came before the Queen, who heartily thanked them and all the City; whereupon the greatest shout was immediately given that ever was heard, with hurling up of caps, etc.; and the Queen showed herself very merry. After this was running at tilt, and then all departed home to London.

Baron Hentzner, a German, who visited England in 1589, gives a curious and authentic account of the Court of Elizabeth here, in his "Itinerary," which was printed by the Hon. Mr. Walpole, of Strawberry Hill, in 1757. "The presence chamber," he observes, "was hung with rich tapestry, and, according to the English fashion, strewn with hay. When the Queen came out to go to prayers, she was attended in the following manner:—first went the Gentlemen, Barons, Earls, Knights of the Garter, all richly dressed and bare-headed; next came the Chancellor, bearing the seals in a red silk purse, between two and two, one of whom carried the royal sceptre, the other the Sword of State, in a red scabbard, studded with gold fleur-de-lis, the point upwards; next came the Queen, in the sixty-fifth year of her age," as we are told, "very majestic; her face oblong, fair but wrinkled; her eyes small, yet black and pleasant; her nose a little hooked; her lips narrow, and her teeth black (a defect the English seem subject to from their too great use of sugar); she had in her ears two pearls, with very rich drops; she wore

false hair, and that red ; upon her head she had a small crown, reported to be made of some of the gold of the celebrated Luneburg table. Her bosom was uncovered, as is the fashion with all the English ladies before they marry, and she had on a necklace of exceedingly fine jewels ; her hands were small, but her fingers long, and her stature neither tall nor low ; her air was stately, and her manner of speaking mild and obliging. That day she was dressed in white silk, bordered with pearls of the size of beans, and over it a mantle of black silk, shot with silver threads ; her train was very long, the end of it borne by a Marchioness ; instead of a chain she had an oblong chain of gold and jewels. As she went along in all this state and magnificence, she spoke very graciously, first to one, then to the other, whether Foreign Ministers, or those who attended for different reasons, in English, French, German, or Italian ; for she is well skilled in Greek and Latin ; also she is mistress of Spanish, Scotch, and Dutch ; whoever speaks to her, it is kneeling ; now and then, she raises some with her hands ; wherever she turned her face, as she was going, everybody fell down on their knees. The ladies of the Court follow next to her, very handsome and well shaped, and for the most part dressed in white. She was guarded on each side by the gentlemen pensioners, fifty in number, with gilt battle-axes. In the ante-chapel, next the hall, where we were, some petitions were presented to her, and she received them most graciously, which occasioned the acclamation 'Long live Queen Elizabeth.'—'I thank you, my good people.' "

Elizabeth was here in 1600, as appears from a passage in the Sydney Papers, and used to "walk much in the park, and the great walks about the park."

King James I. frequently resided here ; and the Princess Mary and others of his children were born here.

Considerable additions were made to the buildings by Queen Anne of Denmark, who laid the foundations of the "House of Delight," in the park, which was completed by Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I., who employed the celebrated Inigo Jones as architect ; and it is characterised by the late Lord Orford as one of the most beautiful of his works. The ceilings were painted by Horatio Gensileschi, and the whole building was finished so magnificently, that Philpot says "It surpassed all others of the kind in England."

After the Restoration, Charles II., finding the whole in a ruinous state, ordered it to be pulled down, and commenced a new palace, of free-stone, on a most magnificent plan, on the same spot. The king lived to see but one wing completed, at the expense of £36,000, and in that his Majesty occasionally resided.

In the year 1694, King William III. and his royal consort, Mary, by letters patent, granted the palace, with other buildings and certain land adjoining to the Lord Keeper Somers, the Duke of Leeds, the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, the Earl of Shrewsbury, Sydney Lord Godolphin, and others, in trust, "to erect and found an Hospital for the relief and support of Seamen serving on board the ships and vessels belonging to the Navy Royal of England, our heirs and successors, or employed in ours or their service at sea, who by reason of age, wounds, or disabilities, shall be incapable of any further service at sea, and unable to maintain themselves ; and for the sustentation of the widows, and the maintenance and the education of the children of seamen, happening to be slain or disabled in the sea service, and also for the

further relief and encouragement of seamen, and improvement of navigation."

In the following year, 1695, Queen Mary being then dead, the king appointed Commissioners for considering, with the assistance of the Surveyor-General and others, what part of King Charles's Palace and adjacent buildings, granted for that purpose, would be fit for the intended Hospital, and how they might be prepared in the best manner for that use; for procuring the best models for the new buildings, as might be required; for preparing, with the assistance of the Attorney-General, a charter of foundation, with statutes and ordinances, for the use of the Hospital, and for other purposes. After the first and second meetings, in May, 1695, the Commissioners formed a committee of sixty persons, to whom the immediate management of the Foundation was intrusted; with Sir Christopher Wren architect, and Mr. John Scarborough clerk of works. Sir Christopher, to his great honour, undertook to superintend the work; and contributed his time and great skill, without any emolument whatever.

The foundations of the first new buildings, called Bass Building, was laid on the 3rd June, 1696, and the superstructure finished two years after. From this period the Hospital has been gradually enlarged and improved, until it has obtained its present height of splendour and magnificence.

In the year 1775 the Commissioners became a body corporate, by virtue of a charter of his Majesty George III. This power granted the charter for the completion of the buildings, for the provision of seamen either within or without the Hospital. It also provided for making by-laws, etc., and also that all the officers of the Hospital should be seafaring men. The business of the Directors was to superintend the inspection of the buildings; to state the accounts and to make contracts; and to place boys out as apprentices. The internal regulations of the Hospital were vested in the Governor and Council, as appointed under the commission of Queen Anne, in 1703. The Charter was followed by an Act of Parliament, which gave the Commissioners thus incorporated, all the estates which they held in trust for the benefit of the Hospital.

The governor in the year 1818 was Sir John Colpoys, whose salary was £1000 per annum; the lieutenant-governor, £400; the captains, £230; lieutenants, £115 each; the steward, £160; auditor, £100; the officers were also allowed a certain quantity of coals and light, and fourteen-pence a day in lieu of diet.

This Hospital is a very magnificent and extensive edifice, of Portland stone, consisting of four distinct quadrangular piles of buildings, distinguished by the names of the respective monarchs in whose reign they were founded and built.

The Painted Hall of this Hospital is a grand piece of work, and was painted by Sir James Thornhill. In the centre of the cupola is a compass, with its proper points duly bearing; and in the coving are the four winds, in alto-relievo. *Eurus* (the east-wind), arising out of the east, winged with a lighted torch in his right hand, as bringing light to the earth; with his left hand he seems to push the morning star out of the firmament; the demi-figures and boys which form the group show the morning dews that fall before him. *Auster* (the south wind), with wings dropping water, is pressing forth rain from a bag, the gods near him

scattering far and wide thunder and lightning. Zephyrus (the west wind) is a figure playing the flute, denoting the pleasures of spring; and is accompanied by little zephyrs, who scatter flowers around them. Boreas (the north wind) has dragon's wings, denoting his fury; and whose boisterous companions are flinging about hailstones and snow.

Over the three doors are large oval tablets, with the names in gold letters of those who gave £100 and upwards towards the building; amongst the most considerable of whom were King William IV., who gave £19,500; Queen Anne, £6,427; John de la Fontain, Esq., Sir J. Crompton, and Mr. Evelyn, £2,000 each; Robt. Osbolston, Esq., £20,000; John Evelyn, Esq., £1,000. Each table is attended by two charity boys, painted as if carved white marble, sitting on great corbels, pointing to a figure of Charity, in a niche, intimating that what money is given there is for their support.

Of the money which was received in former times for showing the hall, threepence in the shilling was allowed to the person who showed it, and the remainder made an excellent fund for the maintenance of not less than twenty boys, the sons of slain or disabled mariners; and out of this fund the boys were entirely provided for, and taught such a share of learning in mathematics, as fitted them for the sea-service. For the better support of this Hospital, every seaman, whether in the Royal Navy or Merchant service, paid sixpence a month.

The Hospital continued to be used as a home for naval pensioners until the year 1865, when the buildings were required for the use of the Naval College, and the pensioners were accordingly dispersed to their native homes. An idea of the usefulness of the Hospital in this respect may be gathered from the following record of what obtained there in 1820. At that time there were about 2410 pensioners and 700 boys on the establishment. Each of the mariners had a weekly allowance of seven quartern loaves, three pounds of beef, two of mutton, a pint of peas, a pound and a quarter of cheese, butter, and fourteen quarts of beer, and one shilling tobacco money, but the latter to the boatswains was half-a-crown a week each.

The Naval Asylum was on the south side of the park, and was a noble structure, its centre being formed by the Palace of Henrietta Maria, Queen to King Charles I., and latterly called Pelham House, from that family, who were the rangers of the park. Greenwich Hospital is now used as a College for the higher education of Naval Officers; there are generally about 200 officers studying there, under the superintendence of a President, an Admiral, and a Captain, with a staff of professors.

The Greenwich Hospital School Board also educates 1,000 boys, the sons of seamen and marines, who are admitted on the claims of the fathers, by a committee of selection.

The former infirmary is lent to the Seamen's Hospital Society (late the Dreadnought), and makes up about 220 beds. Seamen of all nations are admitted without tickets; they have only to prove that they are sailors. The Hospital is supported by voluntary contributions.

The Ranger's House is now on the west side of the Park, a noble red brick building, with Portland stone dressings. And at the south-west corner of the Park stood the late Duke of Montague's, since the Duke of Buccleugh's, and afterwards Charlotte, Princess of Wales's, which was pulled down by order of George IV., and the ground laid to the Ranger's

house, then occupied by the Earl of Chesterfield ; afterwards by the Duchess of Brunswick, Princess Sophia of Gloucester, Lord Haddo, and Prince Arthur, the present ranger being the Countess of Mayo ; the next mansion belongs to Lord Lyttelton ; these have a pleasant walk in front, with a double row of trees ; called Chesterfield Walk, extending to Croom's Hill.

It is not the writer's intention to treat much of the town of Greenwich, as that borough is worthy of a volume to itself.

Greenwich, before the railways were made, was the market town for the inhabitants of this rural neighbourhood ; and the market gardeners of Greenwich, Lee, Eltham, Lewisham, and Charlton, had stalls in the market, which formerly stood at the north end of the infirmary, and was a spacious area, with a fine stone market-house in the centre.

The old parish church of Greenwich was dedicated to St. Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who is said to have been slain by the Danes in 1011, on the very spot where the church was afterwards built. This church had become so ruinous, that about midnight on November 28th, 1710, the roof fell in.

The new church was one of fifty that were erected in London and its suburbs in the time of Queen Anne. It was consecrated Sept. 29th, 1718. It is a handsome stone fabric, constructed in the Grecian order ; Sir Christopher Wren, architect.





CHAPTER VIII.

BLACKHEATH—Montague House—Caverns on the Hill and Heath—Discoveries by Dr. Plot and Others—Earthquake in 1749—The Heath as a Soldiers' Encamping Ground—As a Meeting Place for Processions—Volunteers' Drill Ground—Lewisham Manor purchased by Admiral George Legge—The Dartmouth Family—Lewisham Parish Church—The Rev. Abraham Colfe—Lewisham Village, and Old Mansions—Hither Green—Eastdown Park and Former Nurseries—Returns of Lewisham Union for Year ending Lady Day, 1881.

BLACKHEATH is situated partly in the parishes of Charlton, Greenwich, and Lewisham, and derives its name probably from the black soil which extends over the greater portion of it. It is a beautiful elevated plain, commanding some noble prospects, particularly from that part called "The Point." Blackheath has been considerably improved during the present century by the erection of numerous elegant villas for the residence of well-to-do families—The Paragon and Montpelier-row on the south side, Eliot Vale and Aberdeen Terrace on the west.

The great road from London to Dover crosses the Heath. At the top of the hill leading from Deptford is the Green Man Hotel and Lansdowne Place, in front of which is Chocolate Row. This part commands a fine view eastwards towards Shooters' Hill. There were formerly two windmills on this heath, near the pits leading from the Dover Road to Blackheath Village, which, with Whitfield's Mount, and Montague House with its ivy conical tower, were a charming and rural scene. At the foot of the point, about half-way up Blackheath-hill, on the north side, at 110 yards distance, a curious cavern was discovered in 1780, by workmen employed in laying the foundations of a house. The entrance is by a flight of forty steps, descending about 150 feet; this leads into a range of four irregular rooms, or apartments, from 12 to 36 feet wide (one of them was measured by Mr. Edwards, the topographer, in the year 1818, and was about 30 by 60 feet), which have a communication with each other by small avenues. One of the apartments had a large conical dome, 36 feet high and 43 yards in circumference, supported by columns of chalk. The bottom of the cavern is 50 feet from the entrance, and at the extremities 160 feet. The bottom of these rooms is fine dry sand, and the side roofs are rock chalk; in the southernmost part there was a well 27 feet deep, which supplied very fine soft water. The greatest depth of the lower part of the cavern from the surface is nearly 170 feet, and from the rear to the entrance is nearly the same. These caverns are approached by easy steps, and the rooms are perfectly dry and lighted. They are supposed to have communicated with others which extend under Blackheath. Mr. John Winn, who then kept the Sun Inn, at the hill, informed us that about the year 1800 the earth dropped into an arched tunnel of chalk, north of the turnpike road, opposite these caverns, and that he and others went a great distance under the road, towards the Heath; and about the year 1820 another place, not far from the large windmill near Whitfield's Mount, dropped down in the like manner to a great depth. The truth of this statement

can be vouched for by the writer, he being one that entered this cavern at the end of the gravel pit, near the pond at the Mount ; it was then shown by a man from Lee, who charged 3d. each for the use of candles. This cavern has fallen in on several occasions since that date, within the past 60 years, which the writer knows from experience. The many sinkings of the earth in various parts of the Heath arose from the water permeating from the ponds and springs in the neighbourhood, carrying away with it the quicksand into the drains and sewers on the low lands surrounding the Heath. There are also the remains of tumuli, or barrows, one of which was of a large size, mentioned by Dr. Plot. In the year 1710 many urns were dug up here, among them two of unusual form—one globular, the other cylindrical, about eighteen inches in length, both of them of a fine red clay. The globular one was very smooth and thin ; its circumference was six feet three inches ; it had ashes in it, but no coins under the rim ; about the mouth of it "Marcus Avrelivs IV." was rudely written. The other contained a great quantity of ashes, and in the cavity at the end were seven coins, much obliterated, but on one of them was legible the word "Cladivs," and on one other, "Gallienvs." Dr. Plot also mentions that a glass urn had been found on the Heath, in a bed of gravel. There were also found in 1803, in the grounds of the Earl of Dartmouth, about one foot below the gravel, which here forms the natural surface of the ground, several Roman urns, and they were presented by his lordship to the British Museum.

On the left-hand side of the high road, near the gate which leads to Croom's Hill, there were above fifty of these ancient barrows, and about the same number within the park. In the year 1784, the Rev. Mr. Douglas, F.A.S., the then Vicar of Preston and Hove, near Brighton, having obtained permission to open those in the park, found lumps of iron and broad-headed nails, with decayed wood adhering to them, by which he conjectured that the bodies had been interred in very thick coffins. A considerable quantity of human hair, spear heads, knives, fragments of limbs, and remains of woollen cloths, were also found, and were, on that account (and from the fact that no military weapons were found in the coffins), supposed to contain female bodies. This cluster of barrows was of a circular form, about one hundred feet in diameter, and the graves were very shallow.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, some ground on this spot was dug up, when several things of value were found. About the same time as these barrows were explored, Mr. Douglas opened those above mentioned on the road to Croom's Hill, which he conceived to be lower British. They contained beads similar to those which were found in the coffins that contained the coins, and he declared that they belonged to the 5th and 6th century. He discovered the remains of a garment, and a braid of human hair of an auburn colour ; remains of cloth, both woollen and linen, of different fineness and texture. Some of these graves did not exceed three feet in depth.

Mr. Douglas, some years ago, published a large volume in folio, which contained a great many engravings of different pieces of antiquity discovered by him, in various parts of the kingdom, which were faithfully delineated and etched by himself. A copy of it was shown to Dr. Plot, and at the time he was informed by Mr. Douglas that it was out of print, and that they had been accidentally destroyed by fire. A curious circumstance is mentioned here by Christopher Mason, Esq.,

about the year 1749, respecting the shocks of an earthquake, that shook the houses in London and for many miles around in a surprising manner: "At my habitation on the summit of Croom's Hill, as my wife was sitting by the fire, it shook the room, flung down the poker and tongs, rattled the chayney upon the cabinetts, but did not do other damage than frighten the inhabitants into a panic. I myself was walking on Tower Hill, and I heard the noise, which resembled a proof of guns, but we felt no motion of the earth."

The Danes had an encampment on this Heath, about the year 1011, and it has many times since been the station of a military force; there are also many trenches and other remains of lines of camps still visible. In the year 1381 the rebels, under Wat Tyler, with Jack Straw and John Ball, and their insolent adherents, lay encamped here for some time, with a rabble of nearly 100,000 men. In the year 1450, Jack Cade, the counterfeit Mortimer, twice occupied the same place. On the 23rd of February, 1451, the King was met at this place by a great many of Cade's deluded followers, in their shirts, who humbly on their knees craved for pardon. King Henry VI. pitched his royal pavilion here, when he was preparing to oppose the forces of his cousin Edward, Duke of York (afterwards King Edward IV.). The bastard Falconbridge encamped here against the King in the year 1471. In 1497 Lord Audley and the Cornish rebels, amounting to 6,000 men, encamped on this heath, where they waited the arrival of Henry VII. and his army, when a battle ensued, on the 22nd of July, the rebels were discomfited, and 2,000 slain and their chiefs taken and executed. One of them was Michael Joseph, a farrier, and another, Thomas Hammock, a lawyer. The site of the farrier's tent was shewn when Lambard wrote his perambulation of Kent; it was termed the smith's forge, as Joseph had followed the occupation of a smith, as well as a farrier.

Blackheath has also been the scene of various triumphal processions and meetings of crowned heads, attended with much splendid pageantry. Here King Henry IV., in the year 1400, met the Emperor of Constantinople, just after his arrival in England, with great parade and magnificence, to solicit assistance against Bazazet, Emperor of the Turks. Here, on the 23rd November, 1415, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, with 400 citizens, clothed in scarlet, with red and white hoods, met the victorious monarch, Henry V., returning from the field of Agincourt. Here also the citizens met the Emperor Sigismund in the year 1416, who came to mediate a peace between France and England. He was attended by the Duke of Gloucester and many other lords, with very great pomp and magnificence, and by them conducted to Lambeth, where he was met by King Henry V. In 1474 the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, in scarlet, with 500 citizens, all in murrey gowns, met King Edward IV. here, on his return from France. In 1519, a solemn embassy, consisting of the Admiral of France, the Bishop of Paris, and others, with no less than 1,200 persons in their train, was met here by the Lord Admiral of England, and above five hundred gentlemen. The same year Cardinal Campejus, sent to England by the Pope as his legate, was received on this heath by the Duke of Norfolk, and a great number of prelates, knights, and gentlemen, who conducted him to a rich tent of cloth of gold, where the Cardinal changed his habit, and having put on the cardinal's robes, edged with ermine, rode from hence in much state to London. A still more grand procession was that which appeared at this place at the meeting between Henry VIII.,

in the 31st year of his reign, and the Lady Anne Cleeve, on the 3rd of January, 1540. The chronicles inform us that she came down Shooters' Hill at twelve o'clock, and then alighted at the tent of cloth of gold, prepared on the heath for her reception. The King, having notice of her arrival, went through the park to meet her, attended by most of the nobility, the bishops, the heralds, the foreign ambassadors, &c. The procession from the heath to Greenwich Palace was attended by those in the King's and Princess's train—about 600 in number—by 1200 citizens and others, clad in velvet, with chains of gold, and by most of the lady nobility, and a number of the city ladies. All the city barges were on the water near the Palace, and the procession was saluted with peals of the artillery from the tower in the park. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Chapel at Greenwich.

In April and May, 1585, the City Militia, to the number of 5,000, mustered before Queen Elizabeth at Greenwich, completely armed, for eight days, and encamped on the heath.

On the 23rd of May, 1645, Colonel Blunt, to please the Kentish people—who were fond of old customs, particularly May games—drew out two regiments of foot, and exercised them on this heath, representing a mock fight between the Cavaliers and the Roundheads.

Besides the above, there have been many more remarkable shows and meetings held on this heath, it being the place where, generally, those of any distinction coming from abroad were met, in order to be conducted with proper state and pomp into London.

Until within a few years prior to 1870, on that part of the heath which lies in Lewisham parish, there were two annual fairs, one on the 12th of May, and the other on the 11th of October, which were for the sale of cattle and toys, held in front of Dartmouth Grove and round the Hollies, the residence of the Vicar.

At the time of the threatened invasion of our shores by the first Napoleon and his army, much interest was taken in this neighbourhood in making our Volunteers and Militia efficient and of service in protecting our homes in England. These were severally drilled and inspected, and afterwards encamped on this heath, near The Mount. They also had sham fights near this spot and the windmills; one, in particular, was performed in the presence of Frederic, Duke of York, in 1800.

Instruction in shooting was given by appointed officers from Woolwich in the pits opposite the Hare and Billet Inn; now covered with some substantial houses and stables.

This heath was much infested after dark by highwaymen and foot-pads, so much so, that nobody was safe without carrying firearms to protect themselves.

Many noble families resided here in elegant handsome buildings; particularly on the south side, where was the Earl of Dartmouth's, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales's Pagoda.

Blackheath and the surrounding neighbourhood is described by the Poet Noble as follows:—"Blackheath is the name of the place where I observed the beauties of the Creation and the productions of social ingenuity. Blackheath and its environs are better situated for a wide range of contemplation than any spot. Where will you find prospects more extensive, that at the same time abound with the like grandeur of luxurious cultivation? Behold the magnificence of a mighty city so intimately united with rural cottages of the surrounding labourers of agriculture! Your eye seizes at a glance the orchards, gardens,

meadows, and corn land ; the riches of human society and manufactories ; also the majestic vessels of the whole earth."

About the year 1673, George Legge, Esq. purchased the Manor of Lewisham and appendages, and part of Blackheath, in the same parish. At the same time this gentleman was made Governor of Portsmouth, and Master of the Horse and Gentleman of the Bedchamber to the Duke of York, Master of Ordnance, and one of his Majesty's Privy Council. Being a favourite of Charles II. he was advanced by that monarch to the title of Baron Dartmouth, in the year 1683. He possessed great skill and experience in military and naval tactics, and was made an Admiral in the Royal Navy, which post he continued to fill during the reign of James II. In the last year of this king's reign, he commanded the Royal Navy Fleet, when the Prince of Orange landed in this kingdom ; notwithstanding, he conducted the Fleet safe home, and acted by the king's order. He was deprived of all his appointments and emoluments at the Revolution, and afterwards lived a quiet life, submitting to the new Government.

Admiral Lord Dartmouth was, however, always suspected of retaining the old sentiments for his late royal master, with whom he had been so long, and who was so kind to him. For this reason, and on account of some suggestions that he had carried on a secret correspondence with the abdicated king, he was committed to the Tower of London as a prisoner.

While he continued there, some rumours flew abroad that he was illtreated, which had such an effect on the sailors, who loved him as a father, that they assembled in a great body on Tower Hill, and expressed their resentment in such language that it was found expedient to desire Lord Dartmouth to confer with them ; and on his assuring them that the report they had heard was without any foundation, they gave a cheerful "Huzza," and immediately dispersed. It was thought, however, that the confinement, and the want of his usual exercise, must have contributed to the shortening of his days, for on the 21st October, 1691, he was seized with apoplexy, and he shortly after died, in the 44th year of his age.

King James received the news of his death with a deep sigh, saying "Honest and faithful George Legge is dead ! I have few such servants now." Lord Dartmouth laid down his command of the Fleet as soon as he came on shore, and when he could not act for his master, would not, as another favourite did, act against him.

His relations, at his decease, applied to the Constable of the Tower, then Lord Lucas, for leave to remove his body for interment ; and the king gave express directions that such request should be granted ; and on his Majesty being informed that it was intended to bury the deceased nobleman near the remains of his father, in a vault belonging to the family, in the little Minories Church, he gave further orders that all such marks of respect should be paid at his funeral, as would have been his due if he had died possessed of all his employments ;—a circumstance equally honourable to the memory of King William and Lord Dartmouth, since it shews impartiality and greatness of soul in the former, and the true merit of the latter to produce such a testimony of respect from so penetrating a judge.

A monument of white marble, with a suitable inscription, was erected to his memory by his consort, Barbara Baroness Dartmouth, who was

daughter of Sir Henry Archbold, of Staffordshire, who died in 1718, and is buried by the side of her lord. They left one son, William, created Earl Dartmouth by her Majesty Queen Anne, in the tenth year of her reign. This nobleman was also Secretary of State, and Lord Privy Seal in the same reign.

The Legge Family, from whom the present Earls of Dartmouth are lineal descendants, settled at Legge's Place, near Tunbridge, Kent, and come in a direct line from Thomas Legge, of that Place, who was sheriff of London, in 1343, and twice Lord Mayor, and twice represented the city in Parliament.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the family settled in Ireland, where Edward Legge was Vice-President of Munster, and died in the year 1616, leaving behind him a very numerous progeny,—six sons and seven daughters, all of them distinguished by their great merit. Several of the daughters lived to a very extraordinary age: Elizabeth, the eldest, died aged 105 years; Margaret, married to a Mr. Fitz-Gerald, to upwards of 100; and Anne, the wife of William Anthony, Esq., died in 1702, aged 112 years.

But let us now return to the person of whose actions we have the memoirs recorded by Bishop Burnet, in his Text. He says that George Legge, Baron of Dartmouth, deserves our utmost attention, as he was, even in the opinion of those that were opposed to him, one of the ablest and best of friends, and a good man of the age in which he lived. And further expresses the opinion that he was the worthiest nobleman in the Court of James II., to whose fortunes he adhered, though he had always opposed the Councils which were the causes of his distress. Bishop Burnet, speaking of the uneasiness that King James was under on the fitting out of the Dutch Fleet, in 1688, and the preparations he made for defending himself, proceeds thus: "His Majesty recalled Strickland, and gave the command to Lord Dartmouth, whom he loved, and who had been long in his service, and in his confidence; he served with the highest reputation, beating the Dutch out of the Royal Catherine while she was sinking, and after he had stopped her leaks, brought her safe into harbour.

There have been many descendants of this family who have served their Sovereigns on various occasions, even to her present Majesty, and retired to Blackheath, viz., the Hon. Col. Arthur Legge; the Hon. Commissioner Legge; the Hon. Admiral Legge. Others have served the Church of England—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Oxford, 1818; the Hon. and Rev. Henry Legge, LL.D., late Vicar of Lewisham; the Hon. and Rev. Canon Legge, at present time Vicar of Lewisham.

In ancient records Lewisham is spelt "Levesham," and is derived from the Saxon *Leves* or *Leswes*, signifying "pastures," and *ham*, a "town" or "village." We find the following account of this place in Domesday Book, under "The Greenwich Hundred":—"The Abbot of Ghent holds Levesham of King Edward. It was rated at two sowlings under the Saxon kings and Norman government. The tolls or duties of the port yield 40s. The whole manor in the reign of the Confessor was valued at sixteen pounds; and subsequently it was estimated at thirty."

With reference to the "tolls and duties of the port" just mentioned, a great deal of the merchandise brought into Lewisham was by small boats up the Ravensbourne, which received their goods from the barges that came up the river as far as Deptford Bridge.

The greater part of the village lies low and flat, and is subject to inundations from the River Ravensbourne in the winter and spring of the year. The road through Lewisham leads to Bromley, and one branches off north-east to Eltham and Maidstone.

The Commission of Enquiry into the Value of Church Livings, made in 1650, by Order of the Court of Chancery, returned that "the Lewisham Vicarage was worth £120 per annum, Master Abraham Colfe enjoying it"; that "the house and 54 acres of glebe land besides were worth £54 per annum. The vicarage is valued in the King's Books at £23 19s. 2d.; the yearly tenths being £2 7s. 11d.

In the year 1774 the church being adjudged incapable of repair, and too small for the numerous inhabitants, the parishioners applied to Parliament for an Act to empower them to raise £5,000 by life annuities, to rebuild it. This Act was obtained, and in pursuance thereof the old church was taken down, and a new one erected on the same foundation, which was finished in 1777. The length of it is about 100 feet, and width 60 feet: it is built of stone, and has a large tower, with eight tuneful bells; it has also a fine chancel window. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and is in the Diocese of Rochester. Considerable alterations and additions to the church are being made at the present time. On November 5th, 1881, the foundation-stone of a new chancel was laid by the Countess Dartmouth.

Over the window before mentioned is fixed a memorial stone to the Rev. Abraham Colfe, who was Vicar of this parish for forty-seven years, and was a great benefactor to the parish and to several adjoining ones. He founded, in his lifetime, two free schools, one for teaching English and the other for teaching Latin; the oversight and government of which he committed to the Worshipful Company of Leather-sellers of London. The Rev. Thomas Waite was master at the school on Lewisham Hill in the year 1820.

The Rev. Mr. Colfe also founded six almshouses for six poor women, which stand a short distance south of the church, in the main street. He died in 1657.

In the sixteenth year of the reign of Charles II. an Act was passed for settling his charitable gifts for maintaining six alms-people, which gave to each £22 15s. and a gown (£2 5s.) per annum. Besides the above, he left by will, for the benefit of the poor of Lewisham, houses and land to produce annually £2 4s.; for poor persons attending prayers at church £1 per annum; and for books for poor persons £1 per annum; and to be paid to every maid-servant on her marriage 5s.; all likewise vested in the same Company.

Margaret, widow of Jasper Valentine, and afterwards the wife of the Rev. Abraham Colfe, gave by will 20s. yearly to the poor for ever.

Lewisham High-street, upwards of a mile and a half in length, lies on a gradual slope from the south. There was formerly a stream of pure water running between the road and footpath, pent up by different sluices, which formed reservoirs from Rushey Green to Lewisham Bridge, before uniting with the Ravensbourne, and which, in the summer season, when shaded by the overhanging grove of trees, had a very rural and pleasant effect.

In this street there stood a large house, once the residence of Sir W. Wild, Kt., Recorder of London, and afterwards one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas and King's Bench. In the reign of Charles II. it was held for a term, under the Corporation of London, which

expired some years ago, and the house was then pulled down. Farther on, at the corner or the lane leading to Brockley, near the rookery and opposite the vicarage, is a large mansion, in excellent preservation, which for many generations was owned by the family of Le Thieullier, the first of whom was Sir John Le Thieullier, a Hamburg' merchant, who advanced himself by his industry in trade; whose descendants continued to hold it until John Green Le Thieullier, Esq. alienated it in 1776 to Mr. Sclater, of Rotherhithé. Some years after it came into the possession of Messrs. Parker and Sons, the eminent solicitors of Lewisham, and one of the late firm, George Parker, Esq., J.P. at present occupies it as his private residence. This gentleman has expended a considerable sum in restoring the noble old mansion to its former grandeur.

Besides the parish church of St. Mary, Lewisham, there are the ecclesiastical districts of St. Stephen's and St. Mark's.

St. Stephen's is a very large district, and includes a great number of the houses of the poor. The vicar, the Rev. R. R. Bristow, is deserving of all praise for his kind attention to his parishioners, especially the poor, and his election and re-election as a Guardian of the Poor, is a testimony of their appreciation of his labours. At the present time a handsome mission church, situate in the Algernon-road, Loampit Vale, is drawing towards completion, which is to be for the use of the inhabitants of that part of the district.

Hither Green is the name of that part of Lewisham situated about a mile south-east of Lewisham Church, on a most delightful eminence.

It formerly consisted of five gentlemen's villas and a few cottages, the principal of the former, called Hither Green Lodge, was one time occupied by Captain James Young, one of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House; another, adjoining George-lane, is the property of Peter Hubert Desvignes, Esq.

This place commands a very extensive view, particularly eastward, where the spire of Eltham Church and Eltham Palace is embosomed in trees; and a little to the north is the Castle of Severndroog, Shooters Hill, and Blackheath Park and Lee Church spires.

On the eastern side of Hither Green-lane, near Grove Park, is Lee Parochial Cemetery, its pretty chapels, lodge, and grounds forming a pleasing break in an otherwise very rural scene. Everything here is kept in order in a most efficient manner by Mr. Fry, superintendent.

About a quarter of a mile west of Hither Green, leading from George-lane, is Mountfield House, the residence of H. T. Stainton, Esq., which is erected on a charming eminence; farther on to the south end of the parish, is the estate and farms of the late Samuel Forster, Esq., with a villa at the corner of the road leading to Beckenham. This gentleman had a large tract of land in the direction of Sydenham Hills.

Within this century the whole of this part was a wild common, the resort of gipsies and vagrants; but it is now covered with delightful villas at the sides of the road leading to Norwood. On the left side of the entrance to Hither Green-lane, until the year 1860, stood the old-established nurseries of Messrs. Willmot and Chaundy, extending to Lee, a most delightful walk at all seasons, more especially when many acres were in profuse bloom with sweet peas, and perennials of every variety, such as stocks, larkspurs, lupins, mignonette, asters, and many others. At the expiration of the lease (originally granted,

many years ago, to the old firm, Messrs. Russell and Willmot, the first tenants) this ancient and well-stocked nursery came to grief, as in consequence of the land being so pleasantly situated, and the air so healthy, it was required for building purposes. It is now covered with a number of genteel houses, which have been constructed with astonishing rapidity on Eastdown Park, and which are daily augmenting, being much sought after by those whose business is in the city, and who seek a residence here.

There is also a large increase of new buildings on the old Priory Farm Estate, Rushey Green, Catford, and Stanstead lanes, which with the addition of new railroads and stations, have very much added to the Quinquennial Valuation List of the various parishes in the Lewisham Union. We have the great pleasure of laying before our readers the annexed statement of the area and population returns of 1881, together with the expenditure of the Guardians of the several Parishes in the Lewisham Union, in respect of the last parochial financial year, ending Lady Day, 1881 :—

PARISHES.	Area in Acres.	According to Census, 1881.			Gross and Rateable Values according to the last approved Valuation Lists, 1881.	
		Popu- lation.	Houses.		Gross. £.	Rateable. £.
			In- habited.	Un- inhabited.		
Eltham	3,783...	5,048...	883...	39...	55,791...	47,598
Lee	1,238...	14,432...	2,265...	372...	140,862...	117,621
Lewisham ...	5,774...	53,053...	8,695...	1,135...	459,391...	376,087
Mottingham...	643...	779...	130...	33...	6,906...	5,853
TOTALS...	11,438	73,312	11,973	1,579	662,950	547,159
			13,552.			

NUMBERS relieved at the Cost of the Union in the Workhouse and other Establishments during the year :—

ESTABLISHMENTS.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Workhouse	269	249	151	669
North Surrey Dist. School, Anerley	—	—	202	202
Kent County Lunatic Asylum ...	43	44	1	88
Casual Wards	7,722	1,561	478	9,761
Other Establishments	17	27	49	93
TOTALS	8,051	1,881	881	10,813

NUMBER of Out-door Poor relieved during the year :—

PARISHES.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Eltham	56	74	103	233
Lee	71	129	126	326
Lewisham	476	754	935	2,165
Mottingham	25	27	59	111
TOTALS	628	984	1,223	2,835

TOTAL Expenditure by the Guardians in respect of each Parish in connection with the Relief of the Poor during the same period :—

PARISH.	£	s.	d.
Eltham	3,786	12	6
Lee	8,919	4	5
Lewisham	28,897	8	1
Mottingham	512	10	4
TOTAL ...	£42,115	15	4

The total number of births, marriages, and deaths registered during the year, in each parish, were as follows :—Eltham, births, 128; marriages, 27; deaths, 74. Lee, births, 363; marriages, 75; deaths, 200. Lewisham, births, 1,612; marriages, 321; deaths, 753. Mottingham, births, 28; deaths, 8. Totals for the Union—births, 2,131; marriages, 423; deaths, 1,035.

The number of Guardians for the whole Union are—*ex-officio*, 11; elected, 15; total, 26.

To show the extraordinary increase of inhabitants in this neighbourhood, we give the Census Returns for Lee, for each decade, from the year 1841, when the number returned was 2,359; in 1851—3,552; in 1861—6,159; in 1871—10,493; in 1881—14,433.

A succession of reverses in trade, and general business depression, combined with the very large increase of population in the Metropolitan District, have of necessity tended to increase pauperism within the Lewisham Union District (as also in the other Unions and Parishes situate within the Metropolitan area); so much so, that it has become absolutely necessary to make further provision for the reception and maintenance of the poor (especially the sick poor) of the locality. The Guardians have therefore, pending certain large and important alterations and additions about to be made to the present workhouse, erected at the rear of those premises a large temporary iron building, which is now being used as additional workhouse accommodation.

The building (though temporary) is at the present time an important adjunct to the establishment, and everything that could be desired to make it cheerful and comfortable has been accomplished. Mrs. Penn, of The Cedars, Lee, with her usual generosity and large-hearted sympathy towards her poor neighbours, has provided a bountiful supply of wall pictures for the iron building, which have greatly enhanced the cheerfulness and comfort of the building, and have also evoked the cordial thanks of the Guardians, and the devout gratitude of the inmates. The pictures will doubtless be eventually transferred to the new permanent buildings when erected, and will be preserved as a memento of their kind donor. Long may that devoted lady be spared to bless, with her willing hand and heart, "the poor and needy that crieth, and him that hath no helper!"





ADDENDA.

CONSECRATION of the Church of The Good Shepherd—St. Mildred's made a separate Ecclesiastical Parish.



SINCE writing the foregoing History, some events have occurred which we must record in this our last page.

* * * * *

On Monday, December 12th, 1881, the Lord Bishop of Rochester consecrated the Church of The Good Shepherd, in Handen-road, the clergy present including the Hon. and Rev. Canon Legge, rural dean, and vicar of Lewisham; the Rev. F. H. Law, rector of Lee; the Rev. R. R. Bristow, vicar of St. Stephen's, Lewisham; the Rev. G. T. P. Streeter; the Revds. W. A. Brameld, R. P. Willock, and C. D. Farrar, assistant-curates of St. Margaret's, Lee. There were also present Chas. Clark, Esq., and Fredk. Booker, Esq., churchwardens, and F. H. Hart, Esq., sidesman. J. P. Tate, Esq., sidesman, whose devotion to church extension and restoration is well known, was absent through illness.

[This is the sixth church consecration in the parish of Lee at which the author of this work has been present; the first being in 1813. The writer is now in his 76th year.]

The interior of the church has a remarkably open appearance, and light is admitted by four large semi-circular windows. The fittings in the church are very plain but substantial. The furniture, carpets, hassocks, &c., have been provided by the congregation of St. Margaret's, through a special offertory, which, including a gift of £250 for organ, from Mr., Mrs., and Miss Barnes Williams, amounted to nearly £550. There are 650 chairs as sittings, which are all free.

The builders were Messrs. Maides and Harper, of Croydon; and the architect, Mr. Ernest Newton.

The attendance at the services, since the opening, is most encouraging, as are also the offertories.

* * * * *

During last summer, Her Majesty issued an Order in Council assigning to St. Mildred's, Burnt Ash Hill, a consolidated chapelry from the parishes of St. Margaret and Christ Church, and constituting that a separate parish for all ecclesiastical purposes.

THE END.



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